

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ocean Literacy Unit Vocabulary

Definitions taken from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary

<b>Ocean</b>	the whole body of saltwater that covers nearly three fourths of the surface of the earth
<b>Literacy</b>	the quality or state of being literate; educated
<b>Ecosystem</b>	all of the living and nonliving things in an area; the complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit
<b>Species</b>	a group of similar living things that ranks below the genus in scientific classification; a class of individuals having common attributes and designated by a common name
<b>Extinct</b>	no longer existing
<b>Conservation</b>	a careful preservation and protection of something
<b>Principle</b>	idea or belief; a comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine, or assumption
<b>Geology</b>	a science that deals with the history of the earth and its life, especially as recorded in rocks
<b>Weathering</b>	the action of the weather conditions in altering the color, texture, composition, or form of exposed objects
<b>Erosion</b>	the action or process of eroding which is to wear away by the action of water, wind, or glacial ice
<b>Tectonic plate</b>	the plates which float and travel over the mantle
<b>Tsunami</b>	a great sea wave produced especially by submarine earth movement or volcanic eruption
<b>Atmosphere</b>	the gaseous envelope of a celestial body (such as a planet); the whole mass of air surrounding the earth
<b>Habitable</b>	capable of being lived in
<b>Photosynthesis</b>	the process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food; the synthesis of chemical compounds with the aid of radiant energy and especially light
<b>Organism</b>	a living thing; an individual constituted to carry on the activities of life by means of parts or organs more or less separate in function but mutually dependent: a living being
<b>Sediment</b>	material deposited by water, wind or glaciers
<b>Collaboration</b>	to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor
<b>Natural gas</b>	gas manufactured from organic matter
<b>Overfishing</b>	to fish to the detriment of (a fishing ground) or to the depletion of (a kind of organism)
<b>Dam</b>	a barrier preventing the flow of water or of loose solid materials
<b>Pollution</b>	the act of polluting especially by environmental contamination with man-made waste
<b>Acid rain</b>	rain that has increased acidity caused by environmental factors (such as atmospheric pollutants)
<b>Greenhouse gas</b>	is any of various gaseous compounds (such as carbon dioxide or methane) that, trap heat in the atmosphere, and contribute to the warming of the surface and lower atmosphere of a planet
<b>Marine biologist</b>	a scientist who studies life in the sea