



Kindergarten Vocabulary

This list of words can be used along with the *Let's Investigate Sharks* PowerPoint

1. **Apex Predator:** An animal at the top of the food chain with no natural predators. If removed from an ecosystem, can have large cascading effects on many other species within that system.
2. **Carnivore:** An animal that eats primarily other animals.
3. **Cartilage:** This is flexible connective tissue found inside the body (nose & Ears).
4. **Conservation:** The protection of plants, animals, and their habitats.
5. **Consumers:** Are animals that cannot make their own food, so they must eat other animals and plants to survive. (Food chain & food pyramid)
6. **Ecosystem:** Animals, plants and nonliving things that make up an environment and impact one another.
7. **Endangered Species:** A species that is in danger of becoming extinct if actions are not taken to protect it.
8. **Environment:** All the physical surroundings and factors that influence an organism on Earth are called the environment. The environment includes everything living and nonliving.
9. **Extinction:** When all individuals of a species die. Once a species is extinct, they are gone forever.
10. **Fins:** Flattened appendages (arms and legs) used for propulsion, steering and balance in aquatic vertebrates and some invertebrates.
11. **Fish:** Animals that spend their whole lives in the water and breath using gills. Fish lack limbs (arms/legs) with digits (fingers/toes)

12. **Food chain:** The order in which animals eat plants and other animals.
13. **Food Pyramid:** This shows the number of organisms at each level of the food chain. There are more producers (lower levels) than consumers (higher levels).
14. **Gills:** An organ used for breathing by animals in the water.
15. **Habitat:** The specific place where an animal or plant lives.
16. **Investigate:** To examine closely in order to find something out.
17. **Observe:** To see or sense through careful observation.
18. **Ocean:** The body of salt water that covers nearly 71% of the Earth's surface.
19. **Oxygen:** A chemical element that makes up part of the air we breathe. It is needed by all plants and animals to live.
20. **Pollution:** This occurs when the environment becomes contaminated (dirty) from chemicals, garbage or other harmful substances.
21. **Predator:** An animal that kills and eats other animals.
22. **Prey:** Animal caught and eaten by other animals.
23. **Producers:** (food chain & food pyramid) Living things that can make their own food. Plants are producers that make food through a process called photosynthesis. They use water, carbon dioxide and sunlight (energy) to make sugar and oxygen.
24. **Recycle:** Turning an item into something else instead of just throwing it in the trash.
25. **Science:** Studying the physical world to gain knowledge and answer specific questions.
25. **Scientist:** Someone who is very knowledgeable about science and whose job involves doing scientific research or solving scientific problems.
26. **Shark:** Sharks are fish that have skeletons made of cartilage (cartilaginous fish). There are over 500 different species of shark.
27. **Temperature:** The measure of how hot or cold something is.