ESTUARY VOCABULARY

Abiotic factors – non-living parts of the estuary habitat. Ex. Water, temp. soil, sunlight

Biotic – living parts of estuary habitat. Ex. Animals, plants, bacteria, etc.

Parts of estuary:

Barrier beach – sandy part, protects estuary from storms, waves

Channels – fresh water, rivers streams leading to estuary

Marginal areas – consists of bushes, small trees, purpose: provides, food, shelter

Salt marsh – MOST PRODUCTIVE ON EARTH, 75% of all marine life is born or lives in here, cafeteria & nursery

Brackish water – mixture of salt & fresh water

Coastal – land near shore of ocean

Estuary – place where fresh and salt water meet

Crustacean – animals with hard exoskeleton, jointed legs. Ex. Lobster, crabs

Mollusks – animals with soft bodies (blob)inside a shell. Ex. Oyster, mussels

Decomposer – means break down. Ex. Bacteria and fungi

Detritus – decaying, dead plants/animals

Erosion – wearing away of soil by water

Intertidal zone – area between high & low tides

Photosynthesis – process how plants get food, need sun.

Plankton – microscopic plants/animals

Zooplankton – microscopic animal

Photoplankton – microscopic plants

Run off – rain/snow flows over land rather than soaking into ground

Peat soil – rich soil in salt marsh, wet, spongy

Salt water – heavier, more dense than fresh water

Warm water – lighter than cold water, molecules spread apart

Cold water – heavier, more dense than warm water. Molecules packed together