

1. abrasion	the wearing away of rock chiefly by currents of water carrying sand and other rock debris and by glaciers	19. mechanical weathering	the process of weathering during which physical forces, such as abrasion by particles in moving water or ice, break down or reduce a rock to smaller and smaller fragments, involving no chemical change
2. algal bloom	a rapid increase in population, especially of algae, that brings about the discolouration of the water in which they are growing	20. non-portable water	water not suitable for drinking, cooking or bathing
3. aquifer	a permeable layer of rock capable of yielding quantities of ground water to wells and springs. Such as in the Great Artesian Basin	21. pathogen	a disease-causing organism
4. atmosphere	the mixture of gases surrounding the Earth's surface	22. pollution	the addition of materials to the environment (such as air, water and soil) that harm organisms that normally live there under natural conditions
5. autotroph	a living thing that can supply its own food	23. precipitation	any or all of the forms of water, whether liquid or solid, that fall from the atmosphere and reach the ground, such as rain, hail and snow
6. biosphere	the parts of the Earth (air, land and water) where living organisms can be found	24. tailing	sediments left over after mining
7. chemical weathering	a type of weathering where rocks and minerals are changed into new, fairly stable chemicals by dissolving and chemical reactions	25. turbidity	the cloudy or hazy appearance of water caused by the suspension of clays or other fine particles
8. conservation	the act of preserving for future generations our natural resources, especially plants and animals, and their environment	26. water table	the surface beneath ground level between the zones of saturation and of aeration
9. desiccation	drying out		
10. eutrophication	the process by which bodies of water, such as lakes, become enriched with dissolved nutrients; this may result in much growth of algae and other organisms with an equivalent drop in dissolved oxygen		
11. gamma radiation	the part of the electromagnetic spectrum with the shortest wavelength		
12. glacier	a large mass of moving ice that gouges large amounts of rock and soil from the ground beneath		
13. heterotroph	an organism that is unable to make its own food and thus depends on other organisms as a source of food		
14. hydrological (water) cycle	the complete cycle through which water passes from the oceans, through the atmosphere, to the land and back to the ocean		
15. hydrosphere	all liquid and frozen surface waters, ground water held in soil and rock and atmospheric water vapour		
16. ice wedging	when water freezes to form ice, it expands and the ice acts like a wedge to force open cracks in the rock		
17. joint	a crack in a rock where neither side has moved relative to the other		
18. lithosphere	solid mantle and crust of the earth		