

Vocabulary – Bald Head Island

AHD = American Heritage Dictionary

OAD = Oxford American Dictionary

MWD = Merriam Webster Dictionary

abundance - Noun. More than enough. Plenty.
(Adapted from OAD)

adaptation - Noun. A change that occurs in response to a new situation.

algae - Noun. A water plant without true stems or leaves. (Adapted from OAD)

amphibian - Noun. A class of cold-blooded animals, including frogs and salamanders, that have gills and live in the water when they are young and breathe air when they are an adult. (Adapted from MWD)

anchor - Verb. To secure firmly in place.

aquatic - Adjective. Growing or living in or near water. (OAD)

array - Noun. An impressive set or display.

bacteria - Noun. A single cell organism.

bank - Noun. The slope along the side of a river or stream. (Adapted from OAD)

barrier island - Noun. An island that forms in the shallow water along a coastline. Barrier islands are usually separated from the mainland by a salt marsh and lagoon and are separated from other barrier islands by inlets that allow water to flow between the lagoon and the ocean.

bay – Noun. A body of water partially enclosed by land and connected to the ocean or another larger body of water.

blockade - Noun. Blocking of access to a place by military forces in order to prevent the entry of goods and supplies. (Adapted from OAD)

brackish - Adjective. Slightly salty. Brackish water usually is found where freshwater and saltwater mix, as where a river empties into the ocean.

breed - Verb. To produce offspring. (OAD)

burrow - Noun. A hole or tunnel in the ground that is dug as a dwelling.
(Adapted from OAD)

camouflage - Noun. A method of hiding from predators by adopting colors or patterns that blend in with the surroundings.

canopy - Noun. The top layer of a forest, where the branches of the trees meet.

carnivorous - Adjective. Feeds on flesh or other animal matter.

clay - Noun. A fine-grained soil material widely used in making bricks, tiles, and pottery. (*AHD*)

colonial - Adjective. Lives in a colony, or large group of the same species.

community - Noun. An interacting group of individuals from different species in a common location. (*Adapted from MWD*)

component - Noun. One of the parts that make up a whole.

concentration - Noun. The amount of a substance that is contained in a set volume of liquid (example: the amount of salt in a gallon of salt water).

conserve - Verb. To prevent loss.

continental shelf - Noun. The relatively shallow ocean area nearest the shoreline.

courtship - Noun. The process of attracting a mate. (*Adapted from MWD*)

creekbank marsh - Noun. The zone of a salt marsh that occurs along the banks of the tidal creeks, where flooding occurs daily but is not as deep as in the low marsh.

debris - Noun. Fragmented remains of dead or damaged cells or tissues. (*OAD*)

deposit - Verb. To leave as a layer or covering of matter. (*OAD*)

deterrent - Noun. Something that discourages or prevents a certain action.

detritus - Noun. Any partially broken down plant or animal matter.

diatom - Noun. A microscopic algae made up of a single cell contained within a glass-like shell.

dilute - Verb. To water down by adding more liquid.

dune - Noun. A mound of sand that is formed by wind.

ecosystem - Noun. A community of living things together with their physical environment. (*Adapted from MWD*)

elevation - Noun. The vertical distance of land above sea level.

endangered species - Noun. A species that is in immediate danger of becoming extinct in all or part of its range and needs special protection. (*Adapted from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*)

erosion – Noun. The process of wearing away material by the action of water, wind, or glacial ice; Verb form: to erode. (*Adapted from MWD*)

estuarine - Adjective. Of, relating to, or formed in an area where fresh and salt water mix.

estuary - Noun. A body of water where freshwater mixed with saltwater from the ocean.

evergreen - Adjective. Having leaves that remain green and active throughout the year. (*Adapted from MWD*)

evaporation - Noun. The process by which moisture is lost when liquid water is changed into water vapor.

evapotranspiration - Noun. Total soil moisture loss, including water that is changed into water vapor (evaporation) and water that is taken up by plants and released as water vapor through pores in the surface of the leaves (transpiration).

excrete - Verb. To remove from the body or tissues. (*Adapted from OAD*)

extensive - Adjective. Large in scope or area, wide-ranging. (*Adapted from OAD*)

flux - Noun. Continuous change; the process of flowing in and out. (*Adapted from OAD*)

food web - Noun. A diagram showing the feeding relationships between animals and plants in a certain community.

forage - Verb. To search for food.

fortification - Noun. A wall or building constructed to defend a place. (*OAD*)

fringe - Noun. The border or edge of an area. (*OAD*)

gland - Noun. An organ that produces substances that are to be used by the body or removes substances from the body. (*Adapted from OAD*)

growing season - Noun. The period when plant growth takes place, defined in temperate climates as the period between the last killing spring frost and the first killing fall frost.

habitat - Noun. The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally lives and grows. (*MWD*)

hatchling - Noun. A young animal that has just hatched, or emerged from an egg. (*MWD*)

high marsh - Noun. The upper, irregularly flooded zone of a salt marsh.

hummock - Noun. A rounded hill that rises out of a salt marsh and on which trees and shrubs grow.

hurricane - Noun. A tropical storm with winds greater than 74 miles per hour. (*Adapted from MWD*)

incubate - Verb. To sit on eggs to keep them warm until they are ready to hatch. (*Adapted from MWD*)

inlet - Noun. A narrow waterway that separates barrier islands and connects the ocean to the sound.

intertidal - Adjective. Of or related to the area between the low tide and high tide mark. (*OAD*)

lagoon - Noun. A shallow saltwater body separated from the ocean by a sandbar, coral reef, or barrier island. (*Adapted from OAD*)

levee - Noun. A ridge alongside a river that prevents it from overflowing. (*Adapted from MWD*)

low marsh - Noun. The lowest zone of a salt marsh, where the soil is flooded daily by salt water.

marine - Adjective. Of or relating to the sea. (*MWD*)

maritime - Adjective. Of, relating to, or bordering on the sea. (*MWD*)

mating season - Noun. The time of year, usually in the Spring, when animals of a particular species reproduce.

microbe - Noun. An organism that is too small to be seen without the use of a microscope. (*Adapted from MWD*)

microscopic - Adjective. Too small to be seen without the use of a microscope. (*Adapted from MWD*)

midden site – Noun. A mound containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that marks the location of a primitive human settlement. (*Adapted from AHD*)

migratory - Adjective. Passing, often seasonally, from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding. (*Adapted from MWD*)

mutualism - Noun. A shared, beneficial relationship between two or more different kinds of organisms. (*Adapted from MWD*)

nondescript - Adjective. Not easily described. Lacking unique, easily identifiable features. (*Adapted from MWD*)

notorious - Adjective. Widely and unfavorably known. (*MWD*)

nutrient - Noun. An essential substance that provides nourishment for living organisms. In high amounts, nutrients can pollute water.

organism - Noun. A living being. (*MWD*)

peninsula - Noun. A piece of land nearly surrounded by water. (*MWD*)

plume - Noun. A large showy feather. (*MWD*)

population - Noun. Individuals of the same species that live in a common location and interact. The area of interest can be as small as a population of ants living in a single ant hill or as large as the population of people living on the planet.

predator - Noun. An animal that lives by killing and eating other animals. (*Adapted from MWD*)

prey - Noun. An animal killed by another animal as food. (*Adapted from MWD*)

pristine - Adjective. Not spoiled, corrupted, or polluted. (*MWD*)

producer - Noun. An organism (such as a plant) that produces its own food and serves as food for other organisms. (*Adapted from MWD*)

regal - Adjective. Splendid. Fit for a king.

regurgitate - Verb. To spit up partially digested food.

salinity - Noun. The amount of salt in a solution.

shoot - Noun. A bud, young leaf, or other new growth on a plant. (*AHD*)

shoreline - Noun. The line marking the edge of a body of water. (*AHD*)

shrub - Noun. A short woody plant.

silica - Noun. A white or colorless crystal-like substance that occurs as quartz, sand, and other minerals and is used to make glass and concrete. (*Adapted from AHD*)

silt - Noun. Soil material made up of particles that are smaller than sand but larger than clay.

sinuous - Adjective. Wavy or winding.

sound - Noun. A long body of water between an island and the mainland. (*Adapted from MWD*)

species - Noun. A group of the same or related organisms that are capable of interbreeding.

speckled - Adjective. Marked with small spots or stains.

stabilize - Verb. To make resistant to change or position, to make firm.

subtropical - Adjective. Of or relating to the geographic region bordering the tropical zone. (*MWD*)

temperate - Adjective. Having moderate temperature, weather, or climate. Neither hot nor cold. (*Adapted from AHD*)

tidal creek - Noun. Creeks that develop in large salt marshes to allow water to flow into and out of the marsh each day with the tides.

tide - Noun. The alternate rising and falling of the ocean or a body of water connected to the ocean that usually occurs twice a day and is caused by the

gravitational pull of the sun and moon on the Earth's surface. (*Adapted from MWD*)

tropical – Adjective. Being or characteristic of a region or climate that is frost-free with temperatures warm enough to allow year-round plant growth, given sufficient rainfall. (*Adapted from MWD*)

understory – Noun. The layer of trees, shrubs, and vines between the canopy and the forest floor. (*Adapted from MWD*)

wingspan - Noun. The distance from the tip of one wing to the other. (*Adapted from MWD*)