

**Soil:** The top layer of the Earth's surface and is composed of both organic (once-living) and inorganic (nonliving) materials.

**Humus:** The organic material found in soil, consisting of the decaying waste and remains of organisms

**Decay:** To rot or to break down into smaller pieces.

**Nutrients:** Things in food that living things need to survive.

**Variable:** The factor that is being tested in an experiment

**Environment:** All the physical things and conditions that surround an organism, including other living things, soil, water, air, weather, and climate

**Organism:** A living thing, such as a plant or animal.

**Adaptation:** Behaviors and body parts, or structures, that help organisms survive and reproduce.

**Green Anole:** A branch-dwelling organism that eats insects. Their eyelids close from both the top and bottom.

**Habitat:** The place in nature where an organism lives.

**Bristles:** Tiny, hair-like filaments on the underside of an earthworm that helps it move

**Clitellum:** The thickened ring on an earthworm's body

**Producer:** Organisms that makes its own food and serves as a source of food for other organisms.

**Chlorophyll:** The green substance found in all green plants. Where photosynthesis takes place.

**Camouflage:** To conceal or disguise, usually by blending in with the surroundings.

**Carnivore:** A consumer that eats only other animals

**Consumer:** An organism that obtains its food by eating other organisms

**Herbivore:** A consumer that eats only plants

**Primary consumer:** An animal that eats green plants

**Secondary consumer:** An animal that eats animals who eat plants

**Energy:** The ability to produce change; all living things need energy to live and grow.

**Food Chain:** An arrangement of the members of an ecological community according to the order in which each uses the next member for food.

**Casting:** The waste product excreted by earthworms.

**Decompose:** To separate into parts or elements.

**Decomposer:** Any organism that breaks down dead plants and animal matter into nutrients.