

# GLOSSARY

**abundance:** the quantity, or number, of a particular species or type of animal or plant

**abyssal zone:** the deep ocean zone that begins where light penetration ends

**adaptation:** a characteristic, like a body part or behavior, that helps a plant or animal survive in its environment

**barbels:** fleshy whiskers used to "taste" the bottom of the ocean

**buoyancy:** the ability of an object to float

**carnivore:** an animal that eats other animals

**colonies:** groups of animals of the same type that live or grow together

**condense:** to come together

**conservation:** the act of saving something from loss or harm

**crustacean:** a type of aquatic arthropod with ten appendages, such as a crab, shrimp, or lobster

**dive site:** a location on the reef often visited by scuba divers

**diversity:** the number of different species or types of animals

**evaporate:** to convert into vapor

**habitat:** the place where a plant or animal lives; its home

**herbivore:** an animal that eats plants

**invertebrates:** animals without backbones

**nature trail:** a marked trail designed to lead people through a natural environment in a way that highlights and protects resources

**non-renewable resource:** a resource that can not be replaced after harvesting

**oceanography:** the science of studying the oceans

**pelagic zone:** the open sea

**photosynthesis:** the process through which plants use energy from the sun to make food from water, carbon dioxide and nutrients

**phylum:** major scientific groups used to classify animals

**plankton:** ocean plants and animals that float and drift with ocean currents, usually microscopic

**polyp:** the individual coral animal

**predator:** an animal that hunts and eats other animals

**producer:** an organism that produces food

**quadrat:** a square used to conduct scientific surveys

**renewable resource:** a resource that replaces itself after harvesting so that it can be harvested again

**salinity:** the concentration of salt in a solution

**scavenger:** an animal that eats dead plants and/or animals

**tides:** the rise and fall of sea level along the coast twice each day

**tidal zone:** the area of the coast covered at high tide and exposed at low tide

**transect:** a line used for conducting scientific surveys

**tropical:** a region where the climate is always warm, located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn at 23.5° north and south latitude

**vertebrates:** animals with backbones

**water cycle:** the movement of water via evaporation from the ocean, lakes, and other water bodies to the atmosphere, then back to the water body through condensation and precipitation