
Glossary

acid rain—rain, snow, or sleet that has been made acidic by pollution in the air

atmosphere—the blanket of air surrounding Earth

compete—to fight for something

developers—companies that build new houses, stores, and other buildings

ecosystem—a large community of living things and their environment; can include many different habitats

EPA—the Environmental Protection Agency; a government agency which watches over our environment

fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas

glacier—a very large piece of thick ice that moves slowly down a slope and spreads out on flat land

greenhouse effect—gases allow the sun's energy to pass through Earth's atmosphere, but then prevent most of this energy from escaping into outer space

habitat—the place where a living thing can meet all of its needs

marsh—land that is underwater some of the time

pollution—harmful substances that enter the environment

populated—a place where many people live

predators—animals that get their energy by eating other animals

sapling—a young tree

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