

# Science Vocabulary

## Rocks & Soil

1. **bedrock**: solid rock that lies underneath the subsoil that has not yet been broken down
2. **erosion**: the movement of rock fragments from one place to another
3. **freeze**: turn to ice
4. **igneous**: rocks that are formed when magma, or melted rock from deep inside Earth, rises and cools
5. **metamorphic**: a rock that has been changed by heat and pressure
6. **minerals**: solid materials formed in nature that have a specific crystal structure
7. **nonliving**: never lived
8. **nutrients**: substances that organisms need in order to survive and grow
9. **organisms**: living plant or animal life
10. **sedimentary**: rocks formed from sediments that have settled into layers called strata
11. **soil profile**: a side view "slice" of the different layers of Earth
12. **strata**: layers of rock in the ground
13. **structural support**: help to anchor a plant
14. **subsoil**: the layer below the topsoil
15. **thaw**: melt
16. **topsoil**: the top layer of soil that contains living organisms and nonliving things
17. **weathering**: the breaking down of rocks into smaller pieces called sediments

# Science Vocabulary

## Fossils

1. **climate:** a pattern of weather over a period of time
2. **dinosaur:** an extinct organism
3. **environment:** the surroundings and conditions in which an organism lives
4. **extinct:** no longer exists
5. **extinction:** loss of an entire type of organism
6. **fossil:** the remains or evidence of an ancient organism
7. **impression:** a mark or design made on a surface by pressure
8. **infer:** a process of reasoning from something known or assumed
9. **mineral:** a natural solid material that has a particular crystal structure
10. **organism:** a living thing that carries out basic life functions on its own
11. **paleontologist:** a scientist who studies fossils
12. **prehistoric:** belonging to a period of time before recorded history
13. **preserved:** kept from harm or change
14. **replacement:** the process of an organism's hard parts being dissolved and replaced by other minerals
15. **sedimentary:** formed from mud, sand, small pieces of rock or other sediments that are pressed and naturally cemented to form a rock
16. **trilobite:** an extinct ocean shellfish
17. **tropical:** very hot and moist climate

# Science Vocabulary

## Water

1. **aquifer**: underground lakes, rivers, etc. (ground water)
2. **clouds**: a collection of millions of tiny water droplets or ice crystals
3. **collection**: area where water gathers
4. **condensation**: water vapor that cools and changes back into a liquid
5. **dew**: condensation that occurs outdoors due to warmer air striking a colder surface
6. **evaporation**: the change of a substance from a liquid to a gas (vapor)
7. **ground water**: water beneath the surface of the earth
8. **precipitation**: any form of water that falls from clouds onto Earth's surface. There are four (4) forms of precipitation – rain, snow, sleet, and hail.
9. **runoff**: the draining away of water, melted snow draining down a mountain
10. **temperature**: a measurement of how hot or cold something is
11. **water cycle**: continuous movement of water into the air and ground, onto and over land, and back
12. **vapor**: liquid in the air in the form of a gas

# Science Vocabulary

## Weather

1. **accurate:** correct
2. **air pressure:** the weight of air on Earth's surface
3. **air temperature:** how hot or cold it is
4. **atmosphere:** air around Earth
5. **barometer:** an instrument that measures air pressure
6. **cirrus:** thin, wispy clouds
7. **component:** a part of something
8. **cumulus:** thick, puffy clouds
9. **freezing:** temperatures at or below 0°C or 32°F
10. **forecast:** predictions
11. **meteorologist:** a scientist who studies weather
12. **phenomenon:** an unusual event or fact that can be seen or sensed
13. **precipitation:** water that falls from clouds in the form of rain, snow, hail or sleet
14. **rain gauge:** a container set outside to measure the amount of precipitation during a storm
15. **severe:** harsh or unusual
16. **seasonal:** normal for the time of year
17. **stratus:** layered clouds
18. **thermometer:** device used to measure temperature
19. **wind speed:** how fast the air is moving

# Science Vocabulary

## Utah Biomes (Environments)

1. **adaptation:** the structure, behavior, or other trait in an organism that helps it to survive in its environment
2. **amphibian:** an animal that lives near water and as an adult has lungs
3. **bird:** animal with feathers
4. **coniferous:** evergreen plants that stay green all year and never lose their leaves
5. **deciduous:** plants which lose their leaves in the fall and grow new leaves in the spring
6. **desert:** an area of land that receives less than ten inches of rainfall a year
7. **fish:** a scaly animal that lives in the water
8. **forest:** a large area of land that is covered with trees
9. **hibernation:** an inactive, sleep-like state during the winter
10. **insect:** small, six-legged animal with three body parts, wings and antennae
11. **invertebrate:** an animal without a backbone
12. **mammal:** animal with fur or hair that gives birth to live young
13. **migration:** seasonal movement of animals from one place to another
14. **reptile:** cold-blooded animals with a backbone and scaly skin
15. **vertebrate:** an animal with a backbone
16. **wetland:** a low area where the land is soaked with water