

abiotic	non-living
bedrock	the rock underlying an environment
biodiversity	the numbers of different species of plants and animals living in an environment
biotic	to do with living organisms; the living components of an environment
chemical sedimentary rock	a rock that formed by chemical precipitation or biological activity

clastic sedimentary rock	sedimentary rock that formed from the weathered and eroded pieces of other rocks
climate	the normal weather conditions in an area
contact metamorphism	occurs in response to increased temperature produced by a nearby intrusion of magma
environmental impact statement	a scientific study to help predict the effect on the surrounding environment of some change, such as new buildings, roads, airports and other human activities
foliated	rocks made up of many smaller layers

food chain

a food relationship in an ecosystem where energy and other nutrients are transferred from plants to plant eaters (herbivores) to animal eaters (carnivores); all food chains start with a producer (usually a plant), and the arrows are used to show the direction in which energy and nutrients flow

horizon

one of the layers that make up a soil, each of which is a few centimetres to a metre thick

humus

highly decayed plant and animal matter

igneous rock

a rock formed by the cooling of molten rock either under ground or from a volcano

intergenerational equity

the maintenance or improvement of health, diversity and productivity of the environment by the present generation for the benefit of future generations

leaching

the vertical movement of minerals within the soil due to the dissolution of soluble materials by the percolation of water

lineation

any linear structure on or within a rock, such as ripple marks or flow-lines

metamorphic rock

a rock formed from other rocks when subjected to heating and pressure

mineral

a crystalline solid with a definite composition that occurs in the rocks of the earth's crust

monoculture

the cultivation or growth of a single crop

non-foliated

a rock that does not contain foliations

precautionary principle

if the environment is threatened by serious or irreversible damage, a lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse for not attempting to reverse that damage

regional metamorphism

recrystallisation to form platelike crystals caused by an increase in both temperature and pressure during major earth movements

strata

sedimentary rocks that are formed in layers

streak

the colour of powdered mineral

sustainable development

the use of technology and economic growth in such a way that it does not reduce the capacity of the environment to support future generations

texture

the physical appearance or character of a rock

topography

the general shape of a surface, such as land
