

GLOSSARY

- Adaptations** - Special traits animal species develop over time to help their species survive in their environment.
- Alternate** - Leaves that are staggered or not placed and grow directly across from each other on the twig.
- Amphibian** - A group of cold-blooded animals that usually begins life under water and then transform to air breathers. Frogs, toads and salamanders are amphibians.
- Anglers** - People who fish using a hook and line.
- Birthstone** - A jewel associated with a particular month and thought to bring good luck to a person born in that month.
- Biodegrade** - Able to be broken down (decomposed) by living organisms.
- Brackish Marshes** - Marshes that develop when seawater from coastal rivers is diluted by a large amount of freshwater.
- Canine Teeth** - Long, pointy teet sometimes called eye teeth.
- Carnivores** - Animals that eat mostly other animals
- Carrion** - Decaying flesh of a dead animal used for food by scavenging animals and birds
- Climate** - The statistics of meteorological elements such as temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind, rainfall, etc. in a given region over long periods
- Compost** - After plants and animals die, living organisms break down their remains. The decayed organic matter is used for conditioning soil.
- Crustaceans** - Animals that live in the water and have a hard shell, such as crayfish, shrimp, and lobsters.
- Crystal** - A three-dimensional form whose atoms have a regular and repeating arrangement.

- DEC** - The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is the state agency that conserves, improves, and protects New York State's natural resources and environment.
- Decomposition** - Insects, fungi and bacteria break down dead plants and animals in the soil. This decomposed material is then available to nourish the growth of both new and older plants.
- Den**- For bears, can be a hollow tree or log, under roots or a brush-pile, or a crevice between or under boulders.
- Eaglet** - A young eagle up to 12 weeks old that cannot yet fly.
- Emblem** - A visible symbol of an idea or thing. In 1782, the bald eagle was chosen to be the United State's national emblem because of its long life, great strength and majestic looks.
- Endangered Species** - Any native species in immediate danger of no longer existing.
- Food Chain** - The transfer of food energy from plants through a series of animals, with repeated eating and being eaten.
- Food Web** - An interlocking pattern of food chains.
- Forest Preserve** - The state land in the Adirondack and Catskills this is protected by the State Constitution for the benefit of wildlife and enjoyment of people.
- Forever wild** - A law protecting state land in the Adirondacks and Catskill parks. Trees there can not be cut, sold or destroyed.
- Habitat** - An area that has the food, water, shelter or cover, and space arranged in a way that meets an animal's needs.
- Herbivores** - Animals that eat mostly plants.
- Home Range** - The area an animal travel in when looking for food, shelter or a mate.
- Humus** - Material resulting from decayed plant and animal matter. It provides nutrients for plants and helps keep water in the soil.