TINY MESSENGERS VOCABULARY LIST



Biology: the study of living organisms

Caterpillar: larval life stage of a butterfly or moth

Climate change: long-terms shifts in the Earth's temperature and weather patterns

Decomposing: the process of decaying

Ecologist: scientist who studies interactions among organisms and their environment

Ecosystem: a community of living organisms and their non-living physical environment interacting

together within a specific geographic area

Ecosystem services: benefits that humans receive from natural ecosystems

Entomologist: scientist who studies insects

Fertilizers: chemicals used to help plants grow

Hexapod: six-legged arthropod

Invasive species: plants or animals that have been introduced to an area by humans and displace or

crowd out the native plants that naturally occur there

Keystone species: a species that has a large impact on its ecosystem and is important to the

survival of other species

Leaf litter: mixture of fallen leaves, small twigs, seeds, and other debris that accumulate on the

ground in forests

Microscope: instrument used for viewing very small objects

Native plants: plants that are naturally found in an ecosystem

Overwintering: term used to refer to how insects spend the winter

Pesticides: chemicals used on landscapes to kill or prevent pests

Predator: an animal that naturally kills and eats another animal

Pupae: the life cycle stage of insects that are often found spending winter among fallen leaves

Restore: bring back to a previous condition

Restoration plot: an area of land that is being intentionally managed to return it to the more natural

state of biological diversity