



## TINY MESSENGERS VOCABULARY LIST

**Biology:** the study of living organisms Caterpillar: larval life stage of a butterfly or moth

**Climate change:** long-term 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

**Invertebrate:** animal lacking a backbone

**Foundation 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

