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INLAND EMPIRE
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TREES, PLEASE VOCABULARY LIST - MIDDLE SCHOOL

Adaptation	Biodegradable	Cambium layer	Carbon Dioxide
Compost	Conserve	Decompose	Drought Tolerant
Environment	Germination	Habitat	Heartwood
Invasive (species)	Native (plant)	Natural Resource	Phloem
Photodegradable	Photosynthesis	Pollination	
Sapwood	Species	Xylem	

- **Adaptation:** The special characteristics that enable plants and animals to be successful in a particular environment. Camouflage, as in a toad's ability to blend in with its surroundings, is a common example of an adaptation.
- **Biodegradable:** Substance or object capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms.
- **Cambium Layer:** A thin cellular plant layer of tissue lying between the bark and the wood. Cambium is responsible for the second layer of growth of stem or bark. Increases the thickness of the tree.
- **Carbon Dioxide:** A colorless, odorless, incombustible gas, CO₂, present in the atmosphere and formed during respiration and by burning carbon.
- **Compost:** A mixture of decaying organic matter used to fertilize soil, usually made by gathering plant material, such as leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable peels, into a pile or bin for decomposition.
- **Conserve/Conservation:** To save, preserve or protect.
- **Decompose:** Chemical compound break down or cause to break down organic matter into component elements.
- **Drought Tolerant:** Plants that have relatively low water requirements or plants that are well adapted to an arid climate are often described as drought resistant or drought tolerant.
- **Environment:** The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates. The natural world as a whole or in a particular geographical area.
- **Germination:** The process by which a seed or spore awakens from dormancy and starts to sprout.
- **Habitat:** The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.
- **Heartwood:** the dense inner part of a tree trunk, yielding the hardest timber it no longer conducts water, and its main function is the support of the tree

- **Invasive (species):** An organism (plant, animal, fungus, or bacterium) that is not native and has negative effects on our environment, or our health. Invasive plants and animals are the second greatest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss
- **Native (plant):** A native Plant is a plant that occurs naturally in a particular ecosystem without direct or indirect human actions.
- **Natural Resource:** materials or substances such as a trees or water, that is formed in nature and is necessary or useful to humans.
- **Phloem:** The vascular tissue in plants that conducts sugars and food produced by photosynthesis to all parts of the plant. **Phloem** is the innermost layer of the bark, derived from the Greek word (phloios) meaning "bark".
- **Photodegradable:** Substance or object capable of being chemically broken down by light. Will not decompose.
- **Photosynthesis:** The process used by plants, algae and certain bacteria to harness energy from sunlight into chemical energy.
- **Pollination:** The transfer of pollen from one flower to another flower for fertilization. Fertilization allows the flower to develop seeds
- **Sapwood:** The soft outer layers of recently formed wood between the heartwood and the bark, containing the functioning vascular tissue and carries water and nutrients through the tree.
- **Species:** A group of animals or plants that are similar in characteristics and can produce young animals or plants
- **Xylem:** The vascular tissue of plants that carries water from the root to the leaves and gives strength to the stem or trunk.