

# Unit 11

## Vocabulary Cards

Skills Strand  
GRADE 3

Amplify learning.



Copyright © 2013 Core Knowledge Foundation  
**[www.coreknowledge.org](http://www.coreknowledge.org)**

All Rights Reserved.

Core Knowledge Language Arts, Listening & Learning, and Tell It Again! are trademarks of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

Trademarks and trade names are shown in this book strictly for illustrative and educational purposes and are the property of their respective owners. References herein should not be regarded as affecting the validity of said trademarks and trade names.

ecology

the study of relationships between living things and their environment

**environment**

natural surroundings (**environments**)

**ecosystem**

everything in a particular environment,  
both living and nonliving



**organism**

# a living thing

Unit 11: Chapter 1

depend on

rely on or need (**depends on**)

**survival**

the ability to continue living

pollen

a yellow substance made by plants that is carried to other plants of the same kind to make seeds



**survive**

to continue living

Unit 11: Chapter 1

skitter

to move quickly across something  
(**skittering**)

**sprout**

to begin to grow

Unit 11: Chapter 1

food chain

a relationship of living things as food sources for other living things (**food chains**)



sapling

a young tree (**saplings**)

mighty

large in size

Unit 11: Chapter 2

wander

to move around without a particular  
direction or purpose

**nutrient**

vitamins and minerals that help living things stay healthy (**nutrients**)



**protect**

to keep safe from harm

predator

an animal that lives by hunting other animals (**predators**)

defense

a way to protect against harm (**defenses**)

prey

animals that are hunted by other  
animals for food



**microscopic**

so small that it can only be seen with a  
microscope

apex

# the top point

Unit 11: Chapter 2

producer

a living thing that makes its own food  
(**producers**)

**consumer**

a living thing that eats other living things (**consumers**)



decomposer

a living thing that eats dead plant and  
animal matter (**decomposers**)

**soil**

# dirt

Unit 11: Chapter 3

photosynthesis

the process by which plants make their own food using sunlight

safety

the state of being free from harm



**organic**

from or made by living things

**bacteria**

microscopic living things that exist everywhere; Some can be helpful and some can be hurtful.

fungus

a plant-like organism that lives on dead  
or decaying things (**fungi**)

**abundant**

plentiful

Unit 11: Chapter 3



decompose

to rot, decay, or be slowly destroyed  
and broken down by natural processes  
(**decomposes, decomposed**)

**vitamin**

a substance found in food that is  
necessary for good health (**vitamins**)

**mineral**

a substance that occurs naturally in  
some food and contributes to good  
health (**minerals**)

balance

in nature, the maintenance of  
populations in the proper amounts and  
conditions



wildlife

# animals living in nature

Unit 11: Chapter 4

safari

a trip taken to see or hunt wild animals

**reserve**

an area of land where plants and animals are given special protection

herd

a large group of animals (**herds**)



wildebeest

a large, African antelope, or deer-like creature, with long, curving horns  
(**wildebeests**)

**acacia**

a small tree that has yellow or white  
flowers (**acacias**)

rely on

depend on or need

upset

to interfere with



**gazelle**

an antelope, or deer-like creature, that  
runs very fast (**gazelles**)

**extinction**

a condition in which a kind of plant or animal dies out completely

fragile

weak, easily harmed

erode

to wear away over time due to wind or  
water (**erosion, eroded**)



**common**

occurring often

Unit 11: Chapter 5

**force**

something powerful, especially in nature  
(**forces**)

flood

a condition in which a body of water rises and overflows beyond its usual limits (**floods**)

landscape

an area of land that can be seen in one  
look



topsoil

the top layer of soil that includes  
nutrients plants need

decay

to rot (**decaying**)

petrified

slowly changed into stone over time

prehistoric

a time before history was written down



countless

too many to count

Unit 11: Chapter 5

species

a group into which animals or plants are  
divided by scientists

jackrabbit

an animal that looks like a large rabbit  
with long ears and long hind legs  
**(jackrabbits)**

technology

the invention of useful things or solving  
problems using science and engineering



**resource**

something that is useful or valuable

primarily

mainly

Unit 11: Chapter 6

**generate**

to make (**generates**)

hydroelectric

using the power of water to make  
electricity

Unit 11: Chapter 6



**reservoir**

a lake in which water is stored for use

endangered

in danger of dying out completely

pasture

a field in which animals eat grass  
(**pastures**)

**pump**

to move liquid using a special machine



oil rig

a platform built above the ocean to  
support drilling for oil underwater

**anchored**

held firmly in place

disaster

a sudden event that causes much  
damage or loss

oil spill

an event during which oil is released  
into nature, usually into water, causing  
pollution



polluted

# dirty and unsafe

Unit 11: Chapter 7

*variety*

a collection of different types

effect

a change resulting from influence or  
power (**effects**)

**source**

where something comes from



**coastline**

the place where the land and the ocean  
meet

seal

to close up (**sealed**)

**oil boom**

a floating barrier put in water to keep  
oil from spreading (**oil booms**)

**recover**

to improve after an accident or difficult  
time



**natural resource**

a useful or valuable thing found in  
nature (**natural resources**)

recycle

to process old things so they can be used again to make new things (**recycled, recycling**)

**alternative**

another choice (**alternatives**)

**unnecessary**

not needed



**treasure**

a valuable, important, or special thing  
(**treasures**)

**naturalist**

a person who studies living things in nature (**naturalists**)

**conservationist**

a person who works to protect animals,  
plants, and other natural resources  
(**conservationists**)

wilderness

a wild and natural area where no people  
live