

ENVIRONMENTAL GLOSSARY

WRITING

● Here is a short environmental glossary. Write the Italian equivalent for each term.

ACTIVITIES



- ① **Abiotic:** a heat-resistant material.
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- ② **Additive:** a substance added to another to alter it.
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- ③ **Alternative energy:** a type of energy which does not derive from nuclear or fossil fuel.
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- ④ **Antibiotic:** a substance which destroys or inhibits the growth of bacteria and other microorganisms.
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- ⑤ **Asbestos:** a heat-resistant mineral.
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- ⑥ **Biodegradable:** a substance which can be decomposed by bacteria or other organisms.
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- ⑦ **Biosphere:** the life zone of the Earth's crust and the atmosphere.
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- ⑧ **Biosynthesis:** production by synthesis or degradation of a chemical compound by a living organism.
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- ⑨ **Carbon monoxide:** a poisonous colourless, odourless gas resulting from the incomplete combustion of carbon.
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- ⑩ **Deforestation:** the process of removing trees from a forest.
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- ⑪ **Desalination:** removal of salt from sea water.
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- ⑫ **Desertification:** the process by which fertile land becomes desert.
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- ⑬ **Earth Day:** it is celebrated on April 22nd to discuss ecological problems.
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- ⑭ **Ecology:** the study of the interrelationships between organisms and the environment in which they live.
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- ⑮ **Ecosystem:** a system which includes the organisms of a natural community together with their environment.
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- ⑯ **Fauna:** animal life in general; the animal life characteristic of a specific environment.
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- ⑰ **Flora:** plant life in general; the plant life characteristic of a specific environment.
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- ⑱ **Genetics:** the science which deals with heredity and the variation of inherited characteristics.
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- ⑲ **Greenhouse effect:** the effect of the Earth's atmosphere in trapping heat from the sun.
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- ⑳ **Habitat:** the environment in which a plant or on animal lives.
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- ㉑ **Humus:** a complex of organic matter of plant, animal and microbial origin.
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- 22 **Hydrosphere:** the waters present on the Earth's surface.
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- 23 **Macroclimate:** the climate of a large geographic region.
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- 24 **Mutation:** an abrupt change in the genotype of an organism.
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- 25 **Ozone hole:** a region of abnormal attenuation of the ozone layer.
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- 26 **Ozonosphere:** the region of the upper atmosphere containing significant amounts of ozone, which absorbs short ultraviolet light.
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- 27 **Pesticide:** a chemical substance which destroys pests, especially insects.
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- 28 **Petroleum:** a dark liquid consisting chiefly of

hydrocarbons which can be gaseous (natural gas), liquid (crude oil), solid (asphalt, tar, bitumen) or a combination of states and is refined for use as a fuel.
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- 29 **Ph:** acidity, neutrality or alkalinity of a solution.
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- 30 **Photosynthesis:** the process in plants by which carbon dioxide is transformed into organic compounds using the energy of light absorbed by chlorophyll.
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- 31 **Recycling:** conversion of waste materials into new usable forms.
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- 32 **Smog:** unhealthy mixture of smoke, fog and vehicle waste gases that pollutes the air.
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- 33 **Symbiosis:** interaction between two dissimilar organisms living in physical association.
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