Foundation

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
perspective /pə'spektɪv/	A farmer's **perspective** on wolves may differ from a tourist's.
value /'vælju:/	Protecting wildlife is an important **value** for this group.
worldview	Her **worldview** sees people as part of nature.
environmental value system	Your **environmental value system** shapes how you think about nature.
ecocentric	An **ecocentric** person values nature for itself.
anthropocentric	An **anthropocentric** person values nature for what it gives people.
technocentric	A **technocentric** person believes technology will solve environmental problems.
system /'sɪstəm/	A pond is a **system** with water, plants and animals.
storage /'stɔ:rɪdʒ/	A lake provides **storage** for fresh water.
flow /fləʊ/	Measure the **flow** of water into the pond each hour.
boundary /'baʊndəri/	Draw a **boundary** around the pond being studied.
transfer /'trænsfɜ:/	River flow is a **transfer** of water between stores.

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transformation /trænsfɔːˈmeɪʃn/	Evaporation is a **transformation** from liquid water to gas.
model /ˈmɒdl/	This **model** of the water cycle is simpler than the real thing.
entropy /ˈentrəpi/	A file with high **entropy** is hard to compress.
steady-state equilibrium	A lake is in **steady-state equilibrium** when the water in equals the water out.
feedback /ˈfiːdbæk/	**Feedback** lets the system check the result and adjust.
negative feedback /ˈnegətɪv ˈfiːdbæk/	**Negative feedback** brings body temperature back to normal.
positive feedback /ˈpɒzɪtɪv ˈfiːdbæk/	Melting ice causes **positive feedback**: less ice means more heat, so more ice melts.
tipping point	After a **tipping point**, a system cannot easily go back.
resilience /rɪˈsɪlɪəns/	High **resilience** helps a forest recover after a fire.
sustainability /səˌsteɪnəˈbɪlɪti/	Planting new trees helps **sustainability**.
sustainable development /səˈsteɪnəbl dɪˈveləpmənt/	**Sustainable development** meets our needs without harming future generations.
natural capital	A lake's fish are part of its **natural capital**.
natural income	Fish caught without shrinking the stock are **natural income**.

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ecosystem service	Pollination is an **ecosystem service** provided by insects.
ecological footprint /ˌekəˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈfʊtprɪnt/	Eating less beef can reduce an **ecological footprint**.
biocapacity /ˌbaɪəʊkəˈpæsɪti/	A forest's **biocapacity** is how much it can produce and absorb.
planetary boundary	Crossing a **planetary boundary** risks big changes to the Earth.
doughnut economics	**Doughnut economics** aims to meet everyone's needs without harming the planet.
circular economy /ˈsɜːkjʊlə ɪˈkɒnəmi/	Repairing and reusing goods supports a **circular economy**.
environmental impact assessment	An **environmental impact assessment** studies how a new dam would affect nature.

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