Land

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

Word	Example
soil /sɔɪl/	Plant roots grow in **soil**.
humus /ˈhjuːməs/	**Humus** is dark material made from rotting plants.
weathering /ˈweðərɪŋ/	**Weathering** breaks rock into small pieces.
leaching	Heavy rain causes **leaching**: it washes nutrients out of the soil.
horizon	A soil **horizon** is one layer of the soil.
topsoil	Dark **topsoil** contains roots and organic matter.
soil texture	The amounts of sand, silt and clay give the **soil texture**.
loam /ləʊm/	**Loam** mixes sand, silt and clay.
soil degradation	**Soil degradation** reduces the land's ability to support crops.
erosion /ɪˈrəʊʒn/	Bare hillside soil is easily lost through **erosion**.
salinisation	Watering crops in dry places can cause **salinisation**: salt builds up in the soil.
desertification /dɪˌzɜːtɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/	**Desertification** makes dry land less productive.
overgrazing /ˌəʊvəˈgreɪzɪŋ/	**Overgrazing** removes plant cover and exposes soil.

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terracing /ˈterɪsɪŋ/	**Terracing** creates flat steps for farming on hills.
contour ploughing /ˈkɒntʊə ˈplaʊɪŋ/	**Contour ploughing** follows the shape of the hill to slow down runoff.
cover crop	A **cover crop** protects soil between main crops.
crop rotation /krɒp rəʊˈteɪʃn/	**Crop rotation** changes crops grown in a field over time.
subsistence farming /sʌbˈsɪstəns ˈfɑːmɪŋ/	**Subsistence farming** mainly feeds the farmer's own family.
commercial farming /kəˈmɜːʃl ˈfɑːmɪŋ/	**Commercial farming** produces food for sale.
intensive farming /ɪnˈtensɪv ˈfɑːmɪŋ/	**Intensive farming** uses large inputs per hectare.
extensive farming	**Extensive farming** uses small inputs per hectare over large areas.
yield /jiːld/	Fertilisers increase the **yield** of crops.
Green Revolution /griːn ˌrevəˈluːʃn/	The **Green Revolution** brought new crops that gave much bigger harvests.
high-yielding variety	A **high-yielding variety** of rice gives more grain from the same field.
food security /fuːd sɪˈkjʊərɪti/	Everyone having enough healthy food means **food security**.

Word	Example
eating lower in the food chain	Eating beans instead of beef is **eating lower in the food chain**.
sustainable intensification	**Sustainable intensification** means growing more food with less harm to nature.
integrated pest management /ˈɪntɪgreɪtɪd pest ˈmænɪdʒmənt/	**Integrated pest management** uses several methods, not just sprays, to control pests.
agroforestry	**Agroforestry** grows trees alongside crops or livestock.
polyculture	**Polyculture** grows several crops together.
monoculture /ˈmɒnəʊkʌltʃə/	A **monoculture** grows only one kind of crop.
porosity /pɔːˈrɒsɪti/	Soil with high **porosity** has lots of space between its grains.

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