

Name: _____

May 2017

Hydrology Vocabulary Sheet

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Surface Tension					Tightness across the surface of water that is caused by polar water molecules pulling on each other
Universal Solvent					The ability of water to dissolve many substances
Cohesion					When a water molecule sticks to other water molecules
Adhesion					When water molecules stick to other substances
Density					a measure of the mass of a substance per volume
Buoyancy					the ability of a fluid to put an upward force on an object that is immersed in the fluid
Specific Heat					the amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kg of a substance by 1 degree Celsius
Hydrosphere					the part of Earth that contains water
Salinity					the measure of how salty water is
Glacier					a mass of ice and snow
Aquifer					A rock layer that stores water and allows water to flow through it
Groundwater					water located underground
Water Table					The top of the zone of saturation
Permeable Rock					Rock that has large enough pores to hold water
Oceanography					the study of oceans
Upwelling					The movement of colder, nutrient-rich waters from the deep ocean into shallow areas.
Intertidal Zone					The area that stretches from the highest point of high tide to the lowest point of low tide
Neritic Zone					The part of the ocean containing the shelf and the coral reef
Oceanic Zone					The deepest darkest part of the ocean
Sonar					a method of determining the depth of the ocean
Benthos					organisms that live on or near the ocean bottom
Nekton					are free-swimming organisms that can move independently of currents
Plankton					are tiny organisms that are moved by ocean currents
Estuary					where salty ocean water mixes with fresh water from rivers

Pollutant					any substance that can harm the environment or make it unusable for organisms
Point source pollution					pollution that comes from a single identifiable site
Non-point source pollution					pollution that comes from many places or a source that is not easily identified
pH					measures how acidic or basic water is
Turbidity					a measure of how clear water is
Bio-indicators					are organisms or parts of organisms that are used to assess ecosystem health
Aquatic					Water
Terrestrial					Land

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