

## AP Environmental Science Flashcards PDF

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What is the primary source of energy for Earth's climate system?

The Sun.

What is the term for the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem?

Biological diversity or biodiversity.

What is the greenhouse effect?

The process by which certain gases in the Earth's atmosphere trap heat, preventing it from escaping into space.

What is the main cause of ocean acidification?

Increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere, which dissolve in ocean water.

What is a renewable resource?

A resource that can be replenished naturally over time, such as solar energy, wind energy, and biomass.

What is the difference between weather and climate?

Weather refers to short-term atmospheric conditions, while climate refers to long-term patterns and averages of weather in a particular area.

What is an ecological footprint?

A measure of the environmental impact of an individual or community, expressed as the amount of land and water area required to produce the resources consumed and to absorb the waste generated.

What is the significance of the ozone layer?

The ozone layer protects life on Earth by absorbing the majority of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

What is sustainable development?

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

What is the primary cause of deforestation?

Agricultural expansion, logging, and urbanization.