Vocabulary Cards

Grade 4

(organized by unit, with answers)

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To the Teacher

The *ScienceFusion* Vocabulary Cards are available online, formatted in two ways: alphabetized as they appear in the Student Edition Glossary and organized by Student Edition unit.

You may download the vocabulary cards to reproduce and distribute. Or you may allow children and their families to download the cards. A second set of cards is available to you with the answers to the activities in place.

To use the cards, cut them out along the solid lines. Then fold each card along the dotted line. Glue the two sides of the cards together so that the definition is on one side and the associated activity is on the other side.

The front of each card shows the vocabulary term, the phonetic respelling (grades 2–5), and the glossary definition of the term. The back of each card contains a short activity with a space for students to write or draw. The activities (questions, fill-in-the-blanks, word scrambles, word searches) are designed to help students understand and remember the meanings of vocabulary terms in the Student Edition.

Ideas for Using the Vocabulary Cards

- Have small groups of students read each vocabulary term aloud and take turns reading the definitions. Have students restate the meaning of each term in their own words. Then have students work together to complete the activity on the back of the card.
- Have students sort the cards by topic or have them create word webs to see the relationships among the vocabulary terms.
- Have students use the Vocabulary Cards at home. Suggest that students enlist family members to help them review and remember the concepts associated with the vocabulary.
- Allow students to use the cards to play vocabulary reinforcement games such as Concentration, Twenty Questions, and Jeopardy®.
- Encourage students to use the Vocabulary Cards as tools for reviewing content prior to tests or state science assessment.

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observation
(ahb•zer•VAY•shuhn)

Information that you gather with your senses.

What observations can you make about where you are right now? (Remember, you can observe with all your senses.)

Sample answer: I see people in the classroom. I hear my teacher talking. I feel the wooden top of my desk.

scientist
(SY•uhn•tist)

A person who asks questions about the natural world.

Name three kinds of scientists, and tell what they study.

Sample answer: earth scientists (rocks, weather, Earth changes); physical scientists (matter and energy); life scientists (living things)

investigation
(in•ves•tuh•GAY•shuhn)

A procedure carried out to gather data about an object or event.

Why is it important to communicate the results of an investigation?

Sample answer: so you and others can compare results

science
(SY•uhns)

The study of the natural world.

Name an area of science that you would like to study, and explain why you are interested in that area.

Sample answer: I would like to study biology because I like to learn about plants and animals.

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microscope
(MY•kruh•skohp)

A tool that makes an object look several times bigger than it is.

Draw a leaf. Then draw how that same leaf would look under a microscope.

Drawing should show a leaf and then a larger leaf with the same shape and color but with more details visible.

hypothesis
(hy•PAHTH•uh•sis)

A possible explanation or answer to a question, a testable statement.

What is a hypothesis you might want to test?

Sample answer: If left in direct sunlight, black crayons melt more quickly than white crayons.

pan balance
(PAN BAL•uhns)

A tool that measures mass.

Draw a pan balance. In one pan, draw a mass labeled 50 grams. In the other pan, draw an object that has a mass of about 50 grams.

Sample answer: Drawing might show a pan balance with an egg in one pan and a 50-gram mass in the other pan. The two pans should be level.

inference
(IN•fer•uhns)

An untested conclusion based on your observations.

You leave a glass of ice cubes on a table. When you return, there are no ice cubes in the glass but there is water. What can you infer?

Sample answer: that the ice cubes melted

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model
(MAHD•l)

A mental or physical representation of a process or object.

Sometimes you make models to represent something that is too big to investigate directly. Give two examples of this kind of model.

Sample answers: solar system, building, airplane

spring scale
(SPRING SKAYL)

A tool that measures forces, such as weight.

What is the unit of measure used in a spring scale?

newton (N)

two-dimensional model
(TOO di•MEN•shuh•nuhl MAHD•l)

A model that has the dimensions of width and height only.

Draw a two-dimensional model of a plant. Label the plant parts.

Drawing or diagram should show a plant and have labeled parts, such as the roots, stem, leaves, and flowers.

data
(DAY•tuh)

Individual facts, statistics, and items of information.

Name two ways to record data.

Sample answers: graph, written notes, diagram, audio recording, photograph

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axis
(AK•sis)

The imaginary line around which Earth rotates.

Draw Earth. Show and label its axis.

Drawing should show Earth with its axis. The axis should be labeled.

rotate
(ROH•tayt)

To spin on an axis.

In what direction does Earth rotate?

from west to east

computer model
(kuhm•PYOO•ter MAHD•l)

A computer program that models an event or object.

What can a computer model represent that a three-dimensional model cannot?

Sample answer: an event, such as a storm

three-dimensional model
(THREE di•MEN•shuh•nuhl MAHD•l)

A model that has the dimension of depth as well as width and height.

Why may a three-dimensional model be more useful than a two-dimensional model?

Sample answer: A three-dimensional model is more like the real object being studied.

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moon phase
(MOON FAYZ)

One of the shapes the moon seems to have as it orbits Earth.

The moon looks different in each of its phases. Draw what a first-quarter moon looks like.

Drawing should show a first-quarter moon.

orbit
(AWR•bit)

The path of one object in space around another object.

How long does it take for Earth to complete one orbit around the sun?

about 365 days

telescope
(TEL•uh•skohp)

A device people use to observe distant objects with their eyes.

You know what a telescope and a microscope are. What do you think the word part *scope* means?

to look or see

constellation
(kahn•stuh•LAY•shuhn)

A pattern of stars that form an imaginary picture or design in the sky.

Is the Big Dipper a constellation? Explain.

No. The Big Dipper is a group of stars that is part of the constellation Ursa Major, or Great Bear.

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space probe
(SPAYS PROHB)

A spacecraft without a crew designed to explore the solar system and transmit data back to Earth.

What do space probes take pictures of?

_____

_____

_____

things that are very far away in space

erosion
(uh•ROH•zhuhn)

The process of moving sediment from one place to another.

What is the difference between weathering and erosion?

_____

_____

_____

Sample answer: Weathering is the breaking down of rock into smaller pieces; erosion is the moving of weathered rock and soil.

weathering
(WETH•er•ing)

The breaking down of rocks on Earth's surface into smaller pieces.

Name some things that can cause weathering.

_____

_____

_____

Sample answers: gravity, water, blowing sand, chemicals, plants, animals

deposition
(dep•uh•ZISH•uhn)

The dropping or settling of eroded materials.

What is the verb form of the noun *deposition*? Write a sentence using the verb.

_____

_____

_____

Sample answer: *deposit*; A flowing river deposits weathered rock.

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rock
(RAHK)

A solid substance made up of one or more minerals.

Rocks form in different ways.
Name the three types of rocks.

_____

_____

_____

igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic

sediment
(SED•uh•muhnt)

Small pieces of rock, sand, and silt carried by water.

Explain how sediment can form a delta.

_____

_____

_____

Sample answer: When sediment piles up near the mouth of a river, the sediment forms a delta.

igneous rock
(IG•nee•uhs RAHK)

A type of rock that forms from melted rock that cools and hardens.

Unscramble the letters to make words that name three kinds of ignoous rock.

a i d o s i n b obsidian

_____

e u m c i p pumice

_____

r i t a e g n granite

_____

mineral
(MIN•er•uhl)

A nonliving solid that has a crystal form.

Are minerals natural or human-made?
Explain.

_____

_____

_____

Minerals are natural. They are found in the ground, in caves, and even in the air.

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metamorphic rock
(met•uh•MAWR•fik RAHK)

A type of rock that forms when heat or pressure change an existing rock.

Name a place where metamorphic rock is found.

Sample answer: in a mountain range

sedimentary rock
(sed•uh•MEN•tuh•ree RAHK)

A type of rock that forms when layers of sediment are pressed together.

Circle the words that relate to sedimentary rock.

a	s	p	b	g	f	v	d	c
u	h	z	x	s	l	a	t	e
s	a	n	d	s	t	o	n	e
g	l	v	m	b	l	q	b	h
t	e	n	e	s	r	j	l	e
f	y	f	o	s	s	i	l	s
g	r	a	n	l	t	e	a	o

rock cycle
(RAHK SY•kuhl)

The sequence of processes that change rocks from one type to another over long periods.

Can a sedimentary rock become a metamorphic rock? Explain.

Yes. Heat and pressure can change a sedimentary rock into a metamorphic rock.

fossil
(FAHS•uhl)

The remains or traces of a plant or animal that lived long ago.

What kind of rock are fossils found in?

sedimentary rock

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resource
(REE•sawrs)

Any material that can be used to satisfy a need.

Rocks are an important resource. What can they be used for?

Sample answer: for building roads, bridges, and homes as well as other buildings

nonrenewable resource
(nahn•rih•NOO•uh•buhl REE•sawrs)

A resource that, once used, cannot be replaced in a reasonable amount of time.

Circle the names of nonrenewable resources.

a	n	u	g	a	s	k	t	i	m	h
c	e	l	f	k	d	n	a	e	e
x	d	k	s	c	o	a	l		s
g	n	b	e	o	o	z	b	q	e
m	i	n	e	r	a	l		s	e
f	w	f	r	d	s	i	c	r	
z	r	l	t	a	n	o	p	c	t

renewable resource
(rih•NOO•uh•buhl REE•sawrs)

A resource that can be replaced within a reasonable amount of time.

Draw a renewable resource.

Drawing may show trees, crops, sunlight, or wind

matter
(MAT•er)

Anything that has mass and takes up space.

Are gases matter? Explain.

Yes. Matter is anything that takes up space and has mass. Gases take up space and have mass, so gases are matter.

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physical property
(FIZ•ih•kuhl PRAHP•er•tee)

Anything that you can observe about an object by using one or more of your senses.

Name three physical properties of your desk.

Sample answer: rectangular, smooth, plastic

volume
(VAHL•yoom)

The amount of space that matter takes up.

Name a unit of measure used to describe the volume of a liquid.

Sample answers: liter, milliliter, gallon, quart, pint

mass
(MAS)

The amount of matter in an object.

What tool can you use to measure mass?

a pan balance

density
(DEN•suh•tee)

The amount of matter in an object compared to the space it takes up.

Will an object float if it is more dense than water or if it is less dense than water?

less dense than water

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states of matter
(STAYTS uhv MAT•er)

The physical forms (such as solid, liquid, and gas) that matter can exist in.

Match the state of matter to the words on the right.

solid — no definite volume, no definite shape

liquid — definite volume, no definite shape

gas — definite volume, definite shape

solid—definite volume, definite shape;
liquid—definite volume, no definite shape;
gas—no definite volume, no definite shape

liquid
(LIK•wid)

The state of matter that has a definite volume but no definite shape.

A liquid takes the shape of its _____.

container

gas
(GAS)

The state of matter that does not have a definite shape or volume.

Particles in a gas are _____.

far apart

solid
(SAHL•id)

The state of matter that has a definite shape and a definite volume.

Write three examples of solids.

_____

_____

_____

Sample answer: desk, rock, paper

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condensation
(kahn•duhn•SAY•shuhn)

The process by which a gas changes into a liquid.

Condensation occurs when heat energy is _____ from a gas.

removed

change of state
(CHAYNJ uhv STAYT)

A physical change that occurs when matter changes from one state to another, such as from a liquid to a gas.

Circle the words that tell ways matter changes state.

s	m	e	z	q	b	e	s	a
f	e	s	n	e	d	n	o	c
j	l	t	p	n	j	o	l	x
c	t	l	e	z	e	r	e	f
h	b	m	n	d	o	v	b	t
e	t	a	r	o	d	a	v	e
k	f	m	v	n	g	i	j	k

magnet
(MAG•nit)

An object that attracts iron and a few other (but not all) metals.

Name two things that affect the strength of a magnet.

_____

_____

barriers, distance between the magnet and the object

evaporation
(ee•vap•uh•RAY•shuhn)

The process by which a liquid changes into a gas.

During evaporation, particles that gain enough _____ enter the air as water vapor.

energy

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electromagnet
(ee•lek•troh•MAG•nit)

A temporary magnet caused by an electric current.

Name two places you can find electromagnets being used.

Sample answers: doorbell, speaker, computer, telephone, motor, generator

magnetic field
(mag•NET•ik FEELD)

The space around a magnet in which the force of the magnet acts.

Where on a magnet is the magnetic field the strongest?

at the poles

motor
(MOH•ter)

A device that uses electricity to make things move.

Name two objects that use a motor.

Sample answers: fan, hair dryer, refrigerator, washing machine, vacuum cleaner

magnetic pole
(mag•NET•ik POHL)

The parts of a magnet at which its force is strongest.

Circle the words that relate to magnetic poles.

d	n	q	w	e	x	s	y	l	p
s	o	u	t	h	k	r	a	w	w
p	r	m	o	f	v	b	r	t	t
a	t	t	r	a	c	t	e	s	s
o	h	n	q	c	f	j	p	e	e
z		l	i	k	e	n	e	a	a
u	n	l	i	k	e	y	l	d	d

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energy
(EN•er•jee)

The ability to do work and cause changes in matter.

Which kind of energy is the total potential energy and kinetic energy of an object?

mechanical energy

physical change
(FIZ•ih•kuhl CHAYNJ)

A change in matter from one form to another that doesn't result in a different substance.

Unscramble words that name three physical properties that can be changed.

i z e s size

e t r e t x u texture

s a m s mass

kinetic energy
(kih•NET•ik EN•er•jee)

The energy of motion.

Write an example of something that has kinetic energy.

Sample answer: a girl riding a bicycle

chemical energy
(KEM•ih•kuhl EN•er•jee)

Energy that can be released by a chemical reaction.

Write an example of chemical energy.

Sample answers: car running on gasoline, animal getting energy from food

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chemical energy
(KEM•ih•kuhl EN•er•jee)

Energy that can be released by a chemical reaction.

Write an example of chemical energy.

Sample answers: car running on gasoline; animal getting energy from food

potential energy
(poh•TEN•shuhl EN•er•jee)

Energy that an object has because of the object's position or its condition.

Write an example of something that has potential energy.

Sample answer: a stretching rubber band

electrical energy
(ee•LEK•trih•kuhl EN•er•jee)

Energy that comes from an electric current.

Where does electrical energy come from?

Sample answer: from chemical energy released during the burning of coal and natural gas, from solar energy, from wind energy

mechanical energy
(muh•KAN•ih•kuhl EN•er•jee)

The total potential and kinetic energy of an object.

Mechanical energy consists of both potential energy and kinetic energy.

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heat
(HEET)

The energy that moves between objects of different temperatures.

Write three ways heat travels.

conduction, convection, radiation

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wind energy
(WIND EN•er•jee)

The energy of moving air, which can be used to generate electricity.

What is the name of the object that uses wind energy to produce electricity?

wind turbine (or windmill)

---

solar energy
(SOH•ler EN•er•jee)

The power of the sun.

Why is solar energy considered a renewable energy source?

because solar energy comes from sunlight, which is a renewable resource

---

hydroelectric energy
(hy•droh•ee•LEK•trik EN•er•jee)

Electricity produced using the energy of falling water.

What does the word part *hydro* mean?
What is another word that contains this word part?

"from water"; hydrogen, hydroplane

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radiation
(ray•dee•AY•shuhn)

The movement of heat without matter to carry it.

Why could we say that radiation may be the most important way heat can move?

_____

_____

_____

because we need heat from the sun to live and heat travels from the sun to Earth by radiation

conduction
(kuhn•DUK•shuhn)

The movement of heat between two materials that are touching.

Match the type of heat transfer to the example.

conduction — winds blowing from a warmer area

convection — hot cocoa making a metal spoon hot

radiation — land being heated by the sun

conduction—hot cocoa making a metal spoon hot;
convection—winds blowing from a warmer area;
radiation—land being heated by the sun

conductor
(kuhn•DUK•ter)

A material that lets heat or electrical charges travel through it easily.

Circle the words that name good conductors.

a	c	p	x	b	q	i	h	s	
c	o	n	c	r	e	t	e	i	
o	p	d	r	s	g	u	z	l	
e	p	l	c	w	o	o	d	v	
n	e	t	k	m	l	w	j	e	
i	r	o	n	g	d	f	v	r	
a	l	u	m	i	n	u	m	z	

air, water

convection
(kuhn•VEK•shuhn)

The movement of heat in liquids and gases from a warmer area to a cooler area.

Circle the correct answer or answers.
In convection, which can carry heat?

air

wood

water

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speed
(SPEED)

The measure of an object's change in position during a certain amount of time.

If you walk 120 meters in one minute, what is your speed?

2 meters/second

position
(puh•ZISH•uhn)

The location of an object in relation to a nearby object or place.

Describe your present position in relation to a reference point.

Sample answer: I am sitting three chairs from the window.

motion
(MOH•shuhn)

A change of position of an object.

Explain how you can tell that an object is in motion.

Sample answer: I see that the object's position has changed from one place to another place.

insulator
(IN•suh•layt•er)

A material that does not let heat or electrical charges move through it easily.

Name two materials that act as good insulators.

Sample answers: plastic, rubber, glass, air, ceramics, dry wood

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maturity
(muh•CHER•ih•tee)

The stage at which organisms can reproduce.

What can mature plants do?

Sample answer: make seeds that can grow into new plants

acceleration
(ak•sel•er•AY•shuhn)

Any change in the speed or direction of an object's motion.

The speed of a car changes from 55 mph to 45 mph. Is the car accelerating? Explain.

Yes. The car is accelerating because *acceleration* means "any change in velocity."

force
(FAWHRS)

A push or a pull of any kind.

You kick a soccer ball. Is this force a push or a pull? Explain.

Sample answer: A kick is a push. You are moving the ball away from you.

velocity
(vuh•LAHS•uh•tee)

The speed of an object in a particular direction.

What is the difference between speed and velocity?

Speed is the amount of time an object takes to move a certain distance. Velocity is the speed of an object in a certain direction.

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pollination
(pol•uh•NAY•shuhn)

The transfer of pollen from the male structures to the female structures of seed plants.

Name three ways a plant can be pollinated.

by the wind, by animals (pollinators), by water

germination
(jer•muh•NAY•shuhn)

The sprouting of a seed.

Name two factors that can affect germination.

Sample answers: light, water, heat

complete metamorphosis
(kuhm•PLEET met•uh•MAWR•fuh•sis)

A complex change that most insects undergo that includes larva and pupa stages.

Name an animal that goes through complete metamorphosis.

Sample answers: butterfly, moth

fertilization
(fer•tl•ih•ZAY•shuhn)

The joining of an egg and sperm.

What are male sex cells called?

What are female sex cells called?

sperm, eggs

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heredity
(huh•RED•ih•tee)

The process by which traits are passed from parents to offspring.

Heredity is the passing of traits from parents to offspring. What are some examples of traits children might inherit from their parents?

Sample answers: black hair color, green eye color, attached earlobes, cleft chin, dimples

incomplete metamorphosis
(in•kuhm•PLEET met•uh•MAWR•fuh•sis)

Developmental change in some insects in which a nymph hatches from an egg and gradually develops into an adult.

Name an animal that goes through incomplete metamorphosis.

Sample answers: dragonfly, termite, grasshopper

learned behavior
(LERND bee•HAYV•yer)

A behavior that an animal develops as a result of experience or by observing other animals.

Name an example of a learned behavior in an animal.

Sample answer: A lion cub learns how to hunt from its mother.

nymph
(NIMF)

An immature form of an insect that undergoes incomplete metamorphosis.

Does a grasshopper's life cycle include a nymph stage? Explain.

Yes. A grasshopper goes through incomplete metamorphosis, which includes the nymph stage.

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hibernation
(hy•ber•NAY•shuhn)

A dormant, inactive state in which normal body activities slow.

Some animals hibernate. How does hibernating help them?

When an animal hibernates, it does not use much energy and does not need to eat.

instinct
(IN•stingkt)

An inherited behavior of an animal that helps it meet its needs.

Write an example of an instinctual behavior in an animal.

Sample answer: A newborn horse stands and walks just after it is born.

migration
(my•GRAY•shuhn)

The movement of animals from one region to another and back.

Name two animals that migrate.

Sample answers: humpback whale, manatee, birds such as a goose, land mammals such as a buffalo, some butterflies, some fish

dormancy
(DAWR•muhn•see)

A state of rest or inactivity.

When do plants become dormant?

Plants become dormant when temperatures go down.

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energy
(EN•er•jee)

The ability to do work and cause changes in matter.

Where do animals get their energy from?

food

producer
(pruh•DOOS•er)

A living thing, such as a plant, that can make its own food.

Through what process do producers make energy?

photosynthesis

nutrients
(NOO•tree•uhnts)

The parts of the soil that help plants grow and stay healthy.

Where do plants get most of their nutrients?

from soil

photosynthesis
(foht•oh•SIN•thuh•sis)

The process that plants use to make sugar.

What do plants use during photosynthesis?

water, carbon dioxide, and energy from sunlight

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food chain
(FOOD CHAYN)

A series of organisms that depend on one another for food.

Write these things in order from where the food chain begins to where it ends.

gazelle, grass, lion

grass, gazelle, lion

consumer
(kuhn•SOOM•er)

A living thing that can't make its own food and must eat other living things.

Giraffes eat leaves. Are giraffes consumers?

Yes, animals, such as giraffes, are consumers.

herbivore
(HER•buh•vawr)

An animal that eats only plants, or producers.

Name an example of a herbivore. What does this animal eat?

Sample answer: zebra, grasses and other plants

decomposer
(dee•kuhm•POHZ•er)

A living thing that gets energy by breaking down dead organisms and animal wastes into simpler substances.

Name a decomposer.

Sample answer: mushroom

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food web
(FOOD WEB)

A group of food chains that overlap.

What can happen if one part of a food web changes?

Sample answer: Other parts of the food web are also affected.

carnivore
(KAHR•nuh•vawr)

An animal that eats only other animals.

Write an example of a carnivore.

Sample answers: lion, tiger, crocodile, wolf, eagle

pollution
(puh•LOO•shuhn)

Any harmful substance in the environment.

Unscramble the letters to make words that name kinds of pollution.

a c s m i l h e c chemicals

o k m s e smoke

i e o n s noise

omnivore
(AHM•nih•vawr)

An animal that eats both plants and other animals.

Humans are omnivores. What are some foods humans eat that come from animals? From plants?

Sample answer: Humans eat meat, such as beef, pork, poultry, and fish. Humans eat fruits and vegetables.

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conservation
(kahn•ser•VAY•shuhn)

The preserving and protecting of a resource.

Why is conservation important?

Sample answer: Conserving natural resources helps them last longer.

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