

## **Definitions:**

**Ecosystem:** A community of living things—plants, animals, and microorganisms—and the environment they interact with.

**Erosion:** The process where soil or rock is worn away by wind, water, or other natural forces.

**Migration:** The seasonal movement of animals from one place to another, often to find food, water, or better living conditions.

**Predator:** An animal that hunts and eats other animals for food.

**Prey:** An animal that is hunted and eaten by a predator.

**Trophic cascade:** A chain reaction in an ecosystem that starts when a top predator changes the behavior or population of other species, causing effects that spread through multiple levels of the food web.

**Overgrazing:** When animals eat too many plants in an area, preventing them from growing back and damaging the land.