1. ***Weather*** - The day-to-day state of the atmosphere.

1. ***Atmospheric Movement*** - Global air circulation patterns within the atmosphere held to Earth by gravity and warmed as heat radiates from Earth; influenced by convection of warm less dense air (rises and spreads out) and cold dense air (sinks).

1. ***Air Pressure*** - The force exerted by the atmosphere on Earth’s surface by the weight of the air above the surface.

1. ***Barometer*** - An instrument that measures the amount of atmospheric pressure.

1. ***Humidity*** - Amount of water vapor or moisture content in air.

1. ***Air Masses*** - Bodies of air extending over large areas (1,000 miles or more) that develop and retain specific characteristics of pressure, temperature, and humidity.

1. ***High Pressure Air Masses*** - An air mass with greater atmospheric pressure than the surrounding air masses; air moves away from the high pressure, traveling in a clockwise direction.

1. ***Low Pressure Air Masses*** - An air mass with less atmospheric pressure than the surrounding air masses; air moves toward the low pressure, traveling in a counter-clockwise direction.

1. ***Warm Front*** - Forms at the surface of Earth when a warm, moist air mass overtakes a

cool, dense, and dryer air mass.

1. ***Cold Front*** - Forms at the surface of Earth when a cold, dry air mass overtakes a warmer, humid air mass.

1. ***Weather Map*** – A map or chart that shows the weather conditions at a specific point in time over a specific region.

***Vocabulary Words Continued on Back of Page*** 🡪

1. ***Plate Tectonic Theory*** - Theory that the lithosphere is divided into tectonic plates that slowly move on top of the asthenosphere.

1. ***Lithosphere*** - Cool, rigid, outermost layer of Earth that is divided into enormous pieces called tectonic plates; consists of the crust and the rigid uppermost part of the mantle.

1. ***Asthenosphere*** - The soft upper layer of the mantle just below the lithosphere. The asthenosphere is solid, yet soft enough to flow. This property is called plasticity. The tectonic plates move on the asthenosphere.

1. ***Convection Currents*** - A cyclical motion occurs because of density differences in the mantle. Heated, less dense lower regions of the fluid mantle rise, and denser, cooler regions sink due to gravity. The combined motions serve as the engine for crustal plate movement.

1. ***Continental Drift*** - The theory that continents were once connected but have drifted apart.

1. ***Fossils*** - Impressions of organisms left in rock layers that indicate the organisms once lived in the area.

1. ***Sea Floor Spreading*** - A parallel pattern of rock material found at identical locations on each side of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge reveals rock of the same geologic age and polarity.

1. ***Divergent Boundary*** - The boundary between two tectonic plates moving away from each other—on land creates rift valleys, on the sea floor creates new ocean crust and mountainous ridges.

1. ***Convergent Boundary with Subduction*** - The boundary between two tectonic plates moving toward each other resulting in volcanic activity when a denser ocean plate subducts, or moves below a continental plate or another oceanic plate.

1. ***Subduction*** - The process in which a denser plate is pushed downward beneath a less dense plate when plates converge; occurs at continental to oceanic boundaries and oceanic to oceanic boundaries

1. ***Ocean Trench*** - Deep and narrow depressions in the seafloor where the subducted plate moves into the asthenosphere.

1. ***Convergent Boundary with Mountain Building*** - A major geological event occurs when continental plates of equal density converge.

1. ***Transform Boundary*** - The boundary between two plates that slide past one another—sudden shifts that result in major geological events such as earthquakes and the release of stored energy.