5th Grade Earth Science

Human Interaction with Earth Vocabulary

- 1. <u>Recycle</u> to properly dispose of used resources so they can be reprocessed into new products
- 2. <u>Conservation</u> to protect resources and avoid wasteful and destructive use
- 3. <u>Natural Disaster</u> catastrophe caused by nature that causes great damage or loss of life (flood, tornado, hurricane)
- 4. <u>Man-made disaster</u> a disastrous event caused directly by human actions (oil spills, nuclear explosions, fires)
- 5. <u>Pollution</u> the introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment
- 6. <u>Renewable resource</u> a resource that can be replenished as fast as it is used (oxygen, water, solar, biomass)
- 7. <u>Nonrenewable resource</u> a resource that takes longer than our lifetime to replenish such as fossil fuels (oil *also known as petroleum*, coal, and gas)
- 8. <u>Watershed</u>- the region or area drained by a river or stream
- 9. Erosion the loss of soil as it is carried off by wind or water
- 10. <u>Alternative energy source</u> energy that can replace or reduce the need for traditional fossil-fuel sources (solar, wind, nuclear, geothermal)
- 11. <u>Natural resource</u> materials or substances that occur in nature and can be used (minerals, forests, water, fertile land)
- 12. Sustainable a system that maintains its own kind by using techniques that allow for continual use

Important words to know:

- 1. <u>Levee</u> an embankment designed to prevent the flooding of a river
- 2. <u>Biodegradable</u> capable of decaying through the action of living organisms
- 3. <u>Deforestation</u> to clear trees from an area
- 4. Landfill a low area of land that is built up from deposits of solid waste in layers covered by soil
- 5. <u>Fertilizer</u> a chemical used to enrich the soil
- 6. <u>Greenhouse gas</u> a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing radiant heat and chemical compounds such as carbon dioxide
- 7. <u>No-till farming</u> the practice of planting crops without breaking up the soil
- 8. Fertile bearing, producing, or capable of producing vegetation, crops, fruit
- 9. <u>Emissions</u> the release of toxic fumes
- 10. Biomass organic matter used as fuel (wood, crops, manure, garbage)

