

Unit 2

Vocabulary Cards

Skills Strand
GRADE 3

Core Knowledge Language Arts®



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animal

animal—a living thing that is not a
plant (**animals**)

habitat

habitat—a place where plants and/or animals live and grow (**habitats**)

savanna

savanna—a large flat area of land with a lot of grass and few trees commonly found in Africa and South America

herbivore

herbivore—an animal that only eats
plants (**herbivores**)

carnivore

carnivore—an animal that mainly eats
meat (**carnivores**)

omnivore

omnivore—an animal that eats both plants and meat (**omnivores**)

classify

classify—to put things into groups based on similarities or type
(**classifying, classified**)

scientist

scientist—an expert in science who has knowledge of the natural world based on facts learned through observation and experiments (**scientists**)

characteristic

characteristic—something that makes
a person, thing, or group different
(**characteristics**)

life cycle

life cycle—the stages through which a living thing goes from birth until death

adult

adult—grown-up

Unit 2: Chapter 1

adapt

adapt—to change

Unit 2: Chapter 1

kingdom

kingdom—a major group into
which all living things are classified
(**kingdoms**)

warm-blooded

warm-blooded—having a constant body temperature; Mammals are warm-blooded.

cold-blooded

cold-blooded—only able to control body temperature by using surroundings; Reptiles are cold-blooded.

mammal

mammal—an animal that gives birth, has hair, feeds milk from its own body to its young, and is warm-blooded
(**mammals**)

crocodile

crocodile—a large reptile that lives near water and has thick, scaly skin and very strong jaws (**crocodiles**)

scale

scale—a thin, small disc on the outside of the bodies of some animals, such as fish and reptiles (**scales**)

reptile

reptile—a cold-blooded animal with tough, scaly skin that uses its surroundings to control its body temperature (**reptiles**)

constant

constant—unchanging

temperature

temperature—the measurement of how hot or cold something is (**temperatures**)

vertebrate

vertebrate—an animal with a backbone
(**vertebrates**)

invertebrate

invertebrate—an animal without a backbone (**invertebrates**)

spine

spine—backbone

Unit 2: Chapter 3

spinal cord

spinal cord—a large group of nerves that connects to the brain and sends messages to other nerves in the body

aquatic

aquatic—living, growing, or found in
water

oxygen

oxygen—a colorless gas that animals must breathe to stay alive

gill

gill—one of a pair of organs fish use to breathe underwater (**gills**)

fin

fin—a bony spine covered with skin that sticks out from a fish's body and helps it swim (**fins**)

school

school—a large group of fish or other aquatic animals that swim together
(**schools**)

ocean

ocean—an enormous body of saltwater

migrate

migrate—to travel back and forth from
one place to another

amphibian

amphibian—an animal that can live on land and in water (**amphibians**)

hibernate

hibernate—to spend a season resting or sleeping (**hibernating**)

survive

survive—to continue to live (**survives**)

tadpole

tadpole—the early form of frogs and toads that has gills and a tail, but no legs (**tadpoles**)

fragile

fragile—easily harmed

absorb

absorb—to take in or soak up (**absorbs**)

poisonous

poisonous—full of poison or venom

deadliest

deadliest—most likely to cause death

inject

inject—to force in fluid, like poison,
usually by piercing the skin (**injects**)

venom

venom—poison produced by an animal used to harm or kill another animal

water moccasin

water moccasin—a type of poisonous snake found in the southern United States (**water moccasins**)

startle

startle—to surprise (**startled**)

molt

molt—to shed skin (**molting, molted**)

adaptive

adaptive—easily changes to live in
different environments

flock

flock—a group of birds (**flocks**)

penguin

penguin—a bird that cannot fly, has black and white feathers, and uses its wings for swimming (**penguins**)

feather

feather—one of many light, soft parts that covers a bird's skin (feathers)

plumage

plumage—birds' feathers

Unit 2: Chapter 7

nature

nature—everything in the outside world that is not made by people

weather

weather—what it is like outside

Unit 2: Chapter 7

nectar

nectar—sweet liquid that comes from
flowers

attract

attract—to draw or pull toward a
person, place, or thing

creature

creature—an animal (**creatures**)

communicate

communicate—to share information with others through language, writing, or gestures (**communication**)

language

language—words used to communicate

sign language

sign language—a way to communicate using hands to make signs that stand for letters and words

sonar

sonar—a way to find things underwater
using sound waves

echo

echo—a sound that is repeated when sound waves bounce off the surface of an object

predator

predator—an animal that hunts other animals for food (**predators**)

duck-billed
platypus

duck-billed platypus—a mammal that has a bill like a duck and lays eggs

zoologist

zoologist—a scientist who studies animals and their characteristics
(**zoologists**)

observe

observe—to watch closely and carefully
(**observing**)

organ

organ—an important body part that performs a specific function (**organs**)

Aristotle

Aristotle—a Greek man who lived long ago and was one of the first people to write about classifying animals

knowledge

knowledge—information

Unit 2: Chapter 9

primatologist

primatologist—a scientist who studies
primates

primate

primate—a mammal such as a monkey, ape, or human (**primates**)

behavior

behavior—how a person or animal acts

intelligent

intelligent—smart

Unit 2: Chapter 10

activist

activist—a person who strongly believes in changing something and works hard to try to make change happen

damage

damage—harm

Unit 2: Chapter 10

pollution

pollution—making land, water, or air
dirty, thus causing damage

scuba gear

scuba gear—clothes and equipment
used for diving and breathing
underwater

water pressure

water pressure—the weight or force of water as it presses against something or someone

weight

weight—how heavy something is

submarine

submarine—a type of ship that carries people deep underwater for a long time
(**submarines**)

submersible

submersible—a type of ship used to travel deep underwater for research that usually operates without people inside of it (**submersibles**)

marine biologist

marine biologist—a scientist who studies underwater sea life

suction cup

suction cup—a round, shallow cup that can stick to a surface (**suction cups**)

nocturnal

nocturnal—active during the night

climate

climate—the usual weather patterns in a particular area

orchestra

orchestra—a group of musicians who play instruments together

Komodo dragon

Komodo dragon—the largest, living
lizard (**Komodo dragons**)

exist

exist—to be alive (**existed**)

island

island—an area of land completely surrounded by water (**islands**)

burrow

burrow—a hole in the ground dug
by an animal for safety or for living
(**burrows**)

nostril

nostril—one of the openings of the
nose (**nostrils**)

tongue

tongue—the part of the mouth used for tasting, licking, and swallowing

saliva

saliva—spit

Unit 2: Chapter 13

gnaw

gnaw—to bite or chew something over
and over

extinction

extinction—the state of no longer existing, usually referring to plants or animals that have died out completely

pelt

pelt—the skin of a dead animal with hair or fur on it (**pelts**)

wetland

wetland—an area of land covered with shallow water, such as a swamp
(**wetlands**)

rodent

rodent—a small mammal with large, sharp front teeth, such as a squirrel, rat, or mouse (**rodents**)

territorial

territorial—keeping animals or people from coming into an area already claimed

flexible

flexible—bendable

Unit 2: Chapter 15

hover

hover—to float in the air close to something

moss

moss—a very small green or yellow plant that grows on moist rocks, tree bark, or wet ground