

Coast to Cactus Glossary

Coast

Adaptation: Physical structures, characteristics or behaviors that allow an organism to survive and reproduce in its environment.

Algae: Any of a group of chiefly aquatic, non-vascular plants such as seaweed, pond scum, with chlorophyll often masked by a brown or red pigment.

Altricial: A young bird or other animal hatched or born in an undeveloped state and requiring care and feeding by the parents.

Biodiversity: Variety of animal and plant life on earth, generally counted by species.

Burrows: A hole or tunnel dug into the ground by an animal to create a space suitable for habitation.

Coastal sage: Vegetation dominated by shrubs and small trees.

Condensation: Change of water from its vapor state to liquid.

Crustaceans: Any of a large class of mostly aquatic arthropods with chitinous exoskeleton such a lobster, shrimp, crab, wood lice, water fleas and barnacles.

Cryptic Coloration: Camouflage; concealment through disruption of outline.

Coast to Cactus Glossary

Coast

Dew: Moisture on a surface that appears on surfaces especially after a cool night.

Diurnal: Active during the day.

Ecosystem: A community of plants and animals and their interrelated physical and chemical environments.

Endemic: Plant or animal native to a particular region.

Estuary: Partly enclosed body of water where salt water from the ocean mixes with freshwater from rivers and streams.

Fog: Condensed water vapor that forms a cloud low to the ground and limits visibility.

Forage: To wander in search of food.

Habitat: The natural area where an animal lives.

Hatchling: Newly hatched birds.

Lagoon: An area of shallow water separated by low banks.

Midden: Large nests out of twigs, sticks, leaves, and other objects. Some middens can be hundreds of years old.

Coast to Cactus Glossary

Coast

Migrate: To move from one region or habitat to another according to the seasons.

Migratory: When an animal migrates.

Mudflat: A stretch of muddy land left uncovered at low tide.

Native: Plants and animals endemic or naturalized to a given area or region.

Non-Native Plants: A species living outside its native range.

Non-Migratory: Animals living in one area throughout the year.

Predator: An animal that hunts and kills other animals.

Prey: An animal hunted or caught for food.

Radula: Specialized tongue-like organ found in most mollusks that is used for gathering food by scraping, cutting, or drilling.

Raptor: Bird of prey.

Saltgrass: Grass growing in salt marshes.

Coast to Cactus Glossary

Coast

Species: A group of related animals or plants.

Succulent: A plant that has specialized areas in stem, root, or leaf for storing water.

Tides: Rise and fall of the sea level.

Torrey Pine: A rare pine species growing only in the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, coastal northern San Diego county, and on Santa Rosa Island.

Wetlands: Low lying areas where water covers the soil for varying periods of time.