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Key Tanoak: Environmental Vocabulary Worksheet

Vocabulary Key:

Source: Frederica Bowcutt, Phd lecture, and where indicated via footnote.

Compiled with assistance from Avail Kikukawa and Alex Fleischmann.

1. **cash crop**: a cultivated or wild harvested crop with assigned economic value that is primarily sold rather than used for subsistence.
2. **catastrophic wildfire**: a large and destructive wildfire which often results in negative ecological, economic, and social impacts.
3. **chemical weeding**: the practice of using herbicides to remove unwanted plants from an area.
4. **consumer demand**: the quantity of goods or services that consumers are willing and able to purchase at a given price. This is influenced by factors such as price, quality, availability, income, and personal preference.
5. **consumerism**: the theory that an increasing consumption of goods is economically desirable. A preoccupation and inclination towards the buying of consumer goods.
6. **conifer**: a softwood tree, typically evergreen, which bears needle-like or scale-like leaves.
7. **cultural keystone species**: species which are foundational and integral to the cultural practices and traditions of peoples and communities within a specific region.

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8. **cultural landscape**: a landscape shaped over time by human interactions with the natural world which are in turn shaped by the environment.
9. **dendrology**: the study of trees and the production of forest products such as lumber.
10. **environmental history**: the interdisciplinary study of the relationship and mutual influence that humans and nature have on each other over a period.
11. **externality**: a positive or negative outcome of an economic activity that affects a third party not directly related to the activity¹
12. **fire suppression**: the prevention of fire from spreading or being used as a tool. This can include the physical act of preventing or extinguishing fires, as well as the enforcement of values and beliefs which discourage or prevent traditional land management practices which may utilize burning.
13. **fodder**: crops which are used to feed animals, including livestock and poultry
14. **globalization**: the development of an increasingly integrated global economy marked by free trade, free flow of capital, and use of cheap labor markets.

¹ International Institute for Sustainable Development, "What is an externality?" Sustainable Asset Valuation Newsletter webpage (<https://www.iisd.org/savi/faq/what-is-an-externality/>) Accessed January 17, 2025.

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15. **hardwood**: the wood derived from flowering trees (as opposed to conifers).
16. **herbicide**: a poisonous chemical substance used to eliminate unwanted plants.
17. **ideology**: a system of ideas and ideals which make up the foundations of social and political institutions.²
18. **Indigenous**: originating from and deeply established in place.
19. **local knowledge**: knowledge, skills, experience, and understanding passed down between generations and maintained within a specific geographical region.
20. **monoculture**: the homogenous cultivation of a single crop for economic exchange on agricultural or forest lands, e.g. a cotton or Douglas-fir plantation.
21. **pathogen**: a microorganism such as a bacterium, fungus, virus, or water mold that causes disease within its host, e.g. a plant or animal.
22. **plant pathologist**: a plant pathologist is a scientist who studies plant diseases, their causes, and how to cure or manage them.

² Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, (Springfield, MA: G. & C. Merriam Co., Publishers, 1967), 413.

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23. **primary historical source:** the original and firsthand accounts documenting objects and events from and within a specific period.³
24. **racial hierarchy:** the creation and perpetuation of racial distinctions, exclusions, and hierarchies involving legal enforcement and/or the informal or implicit practices that effectively maintain racial hierarchy.⁴
25. **resource extraction:** the act or process of getting something by pulling it out, forcing it out, harvesting it, etc.: the act of extracting something such as natural resources.
26. **social justice:** equitable distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society which involves the establishment of rights and duties which confer both benefits and responsibilities.
27. **tannery:** a tannery is a facility which processes animal hides and skins into leather which involves the use of inorganic chemicals and/or vegetable tannins to preserve them, make them durable, color them, and make them into usable leather products.
28. **traditional Indigenous ecological knowledge:** often abbreviated to **TEK**, cultural knowledge and practices passed intergenerationally and shaped by environmental change and values such as reciprocity and kinship with nature. Based on qualitative observations often over a long period of time by persons with an intimate relationship with the natural world, e.g. through hunting, fishing,

³ Seton Hall University, University Libraries, "Primary Sources - An Introductory Guide: What Is a Primary Source?" web page (<https://library.shu.edu/primarysources/prim-sources>) Accessed January 17, 2025. For a discussion on the value of comparing primary sources with secondary works, see William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, Sixth Edition, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021), 67-68.

⁴ 4 R.T. Ford, "Race and the Law," *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, eds. Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes (Pergamon, 2001), 12684-12689.

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gathering and/or burning for subsistence. Ecocultural knowledge that can be thousands of years old and is increasingly informing contemporary ecosystem restoration.⁵

29. **underburning**: the process of using low intensity-controlled burns to achieve specific land management goals.

30. **settlement**: the establishment of new communities or colonies through the displacement of Indigenous populations by people who came from other lands.

⁵ Traditional Ecological Knowledge Lab, "What is TEK?" Oregon State University, College of Forestry website (<https://tek.forestry.oregonstate.edu/what-tek>). Accessed January 14, 2025. See also Melissa K. Nelson and Dan Shilling, *Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability*, (Cambridge University Press, 2021). And Daniel R. Wildcat, *Red Alert! Saving the Planet with Indigenous Knowledge*, (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2009).