Vocabulary Secondary Level

arid a dry climate with very little rainfall, high evaporation, and little

vegetation

chlorophyll the green pigment in plants that captures the energy of light so that

this energy can be utilized by the plant

drought a dry period or length of time with low rainfall

epiphytes plants which grow on the limbs or trunks of other plants, deriving

their nourishment from decomposing litter and capturing water that

rushes by on the branches during rainfall

evaporation loss of water as vapor, straight into the air

evergreen plants that keep leaves during all seasons of the year — leaves still

fall, but gradually, not all at once

deciduous as opposed to evergreen, these trees shed their leaves all at the same

time — usually during a harsh (cold or dry) season

microclimate the climate for a small area or zone within a larger climate area,

such as the microclimate on the shaded, north side of a house or on

the exposed, sunny side of a tree trunk

photosynthesis

the process in plants by which the sun's energy (light energy) is captured by chlorophyll and converted to chemical energy that is

stored in sugars, by combining carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water

 $(\mathrm{H_2O})$ to make sugars $(\mathrm{C_6H_{12}O_6})$ and release oxygen $(\mathrm{O_2})$: $6\mathrm{CO_2}$ +

 $6H_2O + light energy \longrightarrow C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6CO_2$

respiration the process in living organisms by which sugars $(C_6H_{12}O_6)$ are

combined with oxygen (O_2) to form carbon dioxide (CO_2) and water (H_2O) , and to release energy for the organisms' use in growth, etc.:

 $C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2 -> 6CO_2 + 6H_2O + energy$

succulence having juicy or watery tissues, as in most cacti

xerophytes plants native to dry areas, and with special forms and habits that

allow them to grow under extreme conditions of climate with limited

water supply