

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

atoll ring-shaped coral island usually located in deep water; developed from fringing reef formed around a volcanic island or landmass

barrier reef coral formation that is separated from land by water (a *lagoon*)

coral reef underwater community of living and dead corals; supports life in warm tropical waters

detritus decaying plant and animal material

dredge to remove underwater land or sediments by suction or digging

estuary the mouth of a river or bay where freshwater and saltwater mix; the part of the river where its current meets the ocean's tide

Everglades large, mixed wetland area located in southern Florida

fringing reef coral reef that grows around the edge of a volcanic island or landmass

hammock wooded area surrounded by marsh

Vocabulary

lagoon water separating land from a coral reef or sand bar

mangrove tree found in muddy tropical wetlands whose twisted roots grow partly above ground

mudflat slightly sloping beach with dark, muddy sand, no marsh grasses, and very little wave action

salt marsh low, coastal wetland covered by salt-tolerant grasses

swamp wooded wetland located further inland than marshes

temperate describes moderate climate zone between the tropics and the poles

wetlands an area that is a combination of water and land; may be exposed, partially submerged, or covered with water