

Unity Element 11: Glossary

aspirations - noun (as-per-A-shuns)

aspirations: things we try mightily to do; an aspiration may be based on selfish or selfless motives, e.g. “Her urge to study medicine became a great aspiration, not so that others would admire her but because she saw many people suffer without the proper care.”

constellation - noun (kahn-stu-LAY-shun)

constellation: a grouping of stars that represent one of 88 divisions of the night sky. Scientists identify the 50 most common constellations based on the names used for centuries in common mythologies.

equator - noun (E-kwa-der)

equator: an imaginary line drawn around the center of the earth to divide the Northern and Southern hemispheres; the belt of land closest to the sun generally sees consistently warmer weather than locations nearer the poles.

greenhouse gases - noun (GREEN-hows gas-uz)

greenhouse gases: gases (sometimes abbreviated GHGs) that hover above earth, absorbing and sending radiant energy. Trapped within the atmosphere, they make Earth warmer. The primary greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere include water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and ozone (O₃). Many human industries and activities emit greenhouse gases. Without greenhouse gases, the average temperature of Earth's surface would be about -18 °C (0 °F), rather than the present average of 15 °C (59 °F).

latitude - noun (LAT-u-tood)

latitude: the distance north or south of the equator. Imagine a line passing between the North Pole and the South Pole. Latitude refers to the distance of a location west or east of that line.

longitude - noun (LAWN-juh-tood)

longitude: the imaginary lengthwise circles that intersect the North and South Poles and the Equator. (If you peeled and divided an orange, the

breaking of these segments would illustrate longitude.) Half of a longitudinal circle is known as a Meridian. Meridians cross the latitudes.

restate -verb (ree-STATE)

restate: to tell again, in order to make a point more clear.

strive - verb (STRYV)

strive: to try very hard or with great intention over a period of time