

Invertebrate Vocabulary for K-8 Students and Teachers *March 2008*

General

ante (*prefix*) – before, in front, at the beginning

aerobic – with or using oxygen

anaerobic – without oxygen

arthro (*prefix*) – refers to a joint or connection in a limb of an organism

colony – a group of identical or very similar cells which form a structure for efficient survival

exo (*prefix*) – outside, exterior

host – an organism which provides for some survival need of another organism

macro (*prefix*) – visible to the naked eye, the ‘big’ picture

micro (*prefix*) – not visible to the naked eye, the very focused point of view

multi (*prefix*) – many

parasite – a living organism which depends entirely on another for survival, usually to the detriment of the host

phobia (*usually a suffix*) – ‘fear of’ something or idea

philia (*suffix*) – ‘love of’ something or idea

photo (*prefix*) – having to do with light

post (*prefix*) – after, at the end

segment – a clearly defined section or part of a larger whole

symmetry (*biological*)– a pattern of balanced body parts in an animal

vermi (*prefix*) – wormlike

vertebra – one of the bones which makes up a spinal (backbone) structure

Vermi-vocabulary (worm specific)

bedding – shredded paper or leaves used as an organic medium for composting

castings – digested organic material excreted by earthworms

clitellum – the wide band on an earthworms body which is involved in reproduction

cocoon – egg casing of worms, containing up to 20 worms

compost – the end result of controlled decay of organic material by invertebrates, fungi, and microorganisms

setae – stiff hairs on a worm which aid in moving

Advanced

autotroph – makes its own food

detritivore – an organism which consumes dead organic material

gastro (*prefix*) – stomach

heterotroph – needs to obtain food

hydrostatic – movement of an organism using the internal movement of body fluids

metamorphosis – a biological process of changing physical structure as an organism develops after birth or hatching

pod (*suffix*) – foot or footlike