

Beach Ecology Vocabulary

Abiotic:	Not living (ex: water)
Barrier Island:	A long, broad sandy island lying parallel to a shore that is built up by the action of waves, currents, and winds and that protects the shore from the effects of the ocean
Berm:	Zone of the beach with dry and soft sand
Biotic:	Living or was once living (ex: dead tree or animal)
Deposition:	The process in which sediment is laid down in new locations; addition of sediment
Dune Meadow:	Zone of the beach in between the sand dunes. This area is protected from salt and wind and typically has many plants and animals
Erosion:	The process by which water, wind, or gravity moves rock or soil; loss of sediment
Intertidal Zone:	Zone of the beach where the ocean meets the land
Sand Dunes:	Zone of the beach consisting of mounds of sand sometimes with sea oats on top. Sand dunes help protect against storms and hold sand in place against wind erosion
Sea Oats:	A tall grass that grows on sand dunes and is useful as it catches more sand to create more sand dunes. It stabilizes dunes with its root system
Wrack Line:	Zone of the beach where organic material (ex: spartina, seagrass, shells) and other debris is deposited at high tide

Making the best better!