

Hunter Education Vocabulary Builder

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Accurate: to place a bullet or arrow where you aim; to hit your target. [When shooting in the field, the most *accurate* shots are made from a rest.]

Activate: to turn something on or make it ready. [To be safe, you should always *activate* the safety on your gun when carrying it in the field.]

Allowable: to allow or permit; permitted; to give permission. [The maximum *allowable* shells that can be loaded in a shotgun when hunting is three.]

Adequate: to have enough; to be good enough. [Hunting laws provide *adequate* funding for wildlife programs and to protect hunters.]

Beneficial: something that is good for health and happiness. [Controlled burning is *beneficial* to habitat management.]

Birth rate: the ratio of young born to females over one year. [The number of young born to a wildlife species in a year is called the *birth rate*.]

Boarding: to board; to get on to a boat. [Before *boarding* a boat, place your unloaded firearm into the boat muzzle first.]

Caliber: Diameter of a bullet; the inside diameter of a barrel measured from land to land. [A rifle's caliber is the measurement of the diameter of the bore.]

- a. Diameter: a straight line that passes through the center of a circle and extends to the circle's outer edges or circumference.
- b. Circumference: the distance around the edge of a circle.

Calibrated: to measure; a measured or known amount. [A muzzleloader should be loaded from a *calibrated* powder measure.]

California Fish and Game Code: laws on hunting and fishing. [*The California Fish and Game Code* says you must be 150 yards from a building before it is legal for you to shoot a firearm while hunting.]

Capable: able; to have the ability. [It is illegal to hunt game species in California with a shotgun *capable* of holding more than three shotshells.]

Capacity: the largest amount or number that can be held or contained. [When hunting any game bird or game mammal in California, it is illegal to use a shotgun with the *capacity* to hold more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.]

- a. Carrying Capacity: The number of animals of each species an area can support based on the type of habitat and size of the habitat.
- b. Magazine capacity: the maximum number of cartridges or shotshells that may be loaded.

Choke: to narrow the shotgun barrel at the muzzle. [The spread of shot from a shotgun is controlled by the *choke*.]

Component: a part of something else or something larger. [A trigger is a *component* of a rifle.]

Contribute: to play a part in making something happen; to give. [The three main factors that *contribute* to spoiled meat are heat, dirt, and moisture.]

Conservation: the use of resources without wasting them. [*Conservation* is the wise use of resources.]

- a. Preservation: saving natural resources; not using natural resources. [Saving natural resources without using them is known as *conservation*.]
- b. Extinct: no longer in existence; having no living descendant. [No North American animal has become *extinct* because of sport hunting.]

Convicted: to be charged and found guilty by a judge or jury of breaking a law. [The DFG will revoke the hunting privileges of any person *convicted* of three violations of the state's hunting laws within a five-year period.]

- a. Revoke: remove; take away.
- b. Illegal: against the law.
- c. Unlawful: against the law.
- d. Violation: to break a law.
- e. Poach: to illegally take game. The illegal taking of game; hunting without a license; hunting out of season.

Coordination: moving together; movement of muscles in harmony. [Drinking alcohol while hunting affects your *coordination*.]

Discharge: to shoot or fire a gun; the firing of a gun; the ignition of gunpowder or ammunition. [Always treat a misfire as if the firearm is going to *discharge* at any second and maintain muzzle control in a safe direction.]

- a. Misfire: failure to fire; a handgun, rifle, or muzzleloader that does not fire when the trigger is squeezed; a cartridge that does not discharge or that only partially discharges when fired.
- b. Hang fire: the delayed firing of ammunition or powder; an unexpected delay encountered between a firearm being triggered and the ignition of the gunpowder.

Discrete: to do something without drawing attention. [An ethical hunter should transport game animals *discretely* by not displaying them.]

Domestic Animal: a pet or animal that is owned by someone such as a cat, dog, cow, horse and cannot be hunted. [A hunter who kills or wounds a person or *domestic animal* must report the incident to the Department of Fish and Game within 48 hours.]

Dominant: most important, most used. [Your *dominant* eye and your *dominant* hand are not always the same.]

- a. Dominant eye: the eye (right or left) that is most used; the eye normally used to look through the gun or bow sight.
- b. Dominant hand: the hand (right or left) that is most used; the hand normally used to pull the trigger or bow string.

Drunk: having too much beer, wine, or liquor. [It is never okay to hunt when you are *drunk*.]

- a. Intoxication/intoxicated: drunk. [If you are in the field and see intoxicated hunters, leave the field immediately and report them to a game warden.]
- b. Impaired: unable to walk or speak; uncoordinated; unsteady. [John's drinking of alcohol *impaired* his hearing and vision.]
- c. Impaired judgment: unable to think clearly. [Mary's drinking of alcohol while hunting impaired her *judgment*.]
- d. Substance abuse: the excessive, harmful, or illegal use of drugs, including alcohol. [Susan's *substance abuse* caused the hunting accident by *impairing* her coordination and stability.]
- e. Prescription/Over-the counter drug misuse: failure to correctly follow instructions on prescribed drugs or drugs purchased at the store: [Bill missed the big buck because the *over-the-counter* cold medicine he purchased *impaired* his ability to stay awake in his hunting blind.]

Edge Effect: an area created where two or more types of habitat meet; feeding area near shelter with a water source nearby. [The *edge effect* produces conditions to sustain higher numbers of a greater variety of game.]

Effective: successful; to get what you want or desire. [The most *effective* shots on big game animals are delivered to the heart and lungs.]

- a. Maximum: the most, the greatest, the largest (See Maximum).
- b. Maximum effective range: the greatest distance at which you can consistently hit and kill the game bird you are hunting. [Shots at birds in flight should be limited to your *maximum effective range*.]
- c. Accurate range: the distance at which you can hit your target from the positions you expect to use in the field. [When hunting you should limit your shots to your most *accurate range*.]

Endangered: to be in danger or to be threatened. [*Rare, threatened* and *endangered* animals are fully protected by the law.]

- a. Extinction: the death of all members of a group of animals.
- b. Endangered species: animals whose numbers are so small that they are in danger of extinction.
- c. Protected species: animals protected by law.

- d. Rare species: uncommon, unusual, very few.
- e. Threatened species: in danger.

Ethical: to know right from wrong; to obey rules and laws; to behave in right way. [Doing the right thing when no one else is watching is *ethical* behavior.]

Equipment: tools, clothing, gun, and other things that are needed to do something. [Hunting license, tags, game taken, and *equipment* must be shown to a Game Warden upon demand.]

Extinct: to die out; no longer in existence; no remaining living members. [No North American animal has become *extinct* because of regulated sport hunting.]

Felony: a serious crime; a crime that involves punishment of one year or longer in prison.

Field Dress: to remove hide and entrails from animal to prevent meat from spoiling. [After you shoot a deer and you are sure it is dead, immediately tag and *field dress* the animal.]

- a. Entrails: intestines and internal organs; guts.
- b. Quarter: to cut into four pieces.

Fowling: to hunt duck. [Mallard is one species of *fowl* legal to hunt in California.]

- a. Fowler: someone who hunts duck.
- b. Fouling: the buildup of residue in the barrel of a firearm.

Fur Bearer (furbearer): small mammals that are trapped or hunted for their pelts.

- a. Pelt: skin and attached fur of an animal. [Small animals that are hunted primarily for their *pelts* are called *furbearers*.]

Game: animals that may be hunted or trapped for sport according to legal seasons and limits. [Approach downed *game* from above and behind the head; and wait a short distance away, watching for breathing.]

- a. Large game mammals: includes horned animals (antelope, sheep, and goats), antlered animals (elk and deer), bear, and pig.

- b. Small game mammals: includes rabbit, hare, and squirrel (cottontail, jackrabbit, red and gray squirrel).
- c. Non-game animals: Animals which the Department of Fish and Game allows to be taken at any time during the year and in any number except where prohibited by law. Non-game species include English sparrow, starling, coyote, weasel, skunks, opossum, moles, and rodents.
- d. Upland game bird: birds with short wings and heavy bodies (quail, pheasant, turkey, and grouse).
- e. Waterfowl: ducks and geese (mallard, pin-tail, Canada goose).
- f. Mammals: warm-blooded animals that give birth and feed their young milk.
- g. Wildlife: non-domestic animals (mammals, birds, and fish) that may be hunted.

Gauge: the bore diameter of a shotgun. [The *gauge* of a shotgun is determined by the number of lead balls with diameters equal to the diameter of the bore that, when combined, weigh one pound.]

Habitat: the complete requirements of an animal for survival: food, water, cover, space, and arrangement. [The greatest threat to wildlife is *habitat* loss.]

- a. Carrying capacity: the number of animals a habitat can support during a year without damage to animals or environment.
- b. Birth rate: the number of young born to females in one year, expressed as ratio to total population.
- c. Death rate: the number of deaths in one year, expressed as ratio to total population.
- d. Surplus game: number of wildlife above those needed for reproduction.
- e. Succession: natural progression on plants and animals in an area.
- f. Starvation: lack of food leading to death.

Harvest: to gather; to take or kill game for food or sport. [Good wildlife management can yield a surplus of game that can be *harvested* by hunters.]

Herbivore: An animal that eats plants.

- a. Carnivore: An animal that eats meat; hunts or preys on other animals.

- b. Omnivore: An animal that eats meat and plants.
- c. Prey: An animal hunted or killed by another animal for food.
- d. Predator: an animal (carnivore) that lives by killing and eating other animals.
- e. Predation: predators feeding on prey.

Hypothermia: the drop in body temperature to low or dangerous level; to be very cold and in danger leading to death. [*Hypothermia* occurs when your body loses heat faster than it can create it.]

- a. Frostbite: damage to skin and muscles (tissue) caused by freezing.
- b. Heat exhaustion: the body core temperature increases to unsafe level.
- c. Heat stroke: more severe case of heat exhaustion leading to death.
- d. Dehydration: the body loses too much water and is in danger of death.

Limit (Limiting-Out): the greatest or largest amount of something. [In the “*limiting-out*” stage of hunter development, success is determined by bagging the *limit*.]

- a. Bag limit: the maximum number of game animals that may be lawfully taken by one person during a specific period of time—usually a day.
- b. Possession limit: the maximum number of game animals lawfully held by one person at any time. Usually two times the daily bag limit
- c. Season limit: the maximum number of game animals lawfully taken by one person during a hunting season.

Maximum: the most, the greatest. [The *maximum* range of a 7mm magnum rifle is 5 miles.]

- a. Maximum effective range: the greatest range or distance at which you can consistently hit your target.

Marksmanship: to be skilled in shooting, ability to accurately hit a target.

Mechanical device: a machine used to perform an action. [The safety on a gun is a *mechanical device* that is subject to failure.]

- a. Firearm: a mechanical device that fires a projectile out of a metal tube (barrel).
- b. Safety: a mechanical device that blocks the action to prevent a firearm from accidental firing.
- c. Magazine: a mechanical device, fixed or attached to the receiver, that holds and feeds ammunition into the chamber.

Mortality: to die or be killed; death. [The number of animals that die within a wildlife species each year is the known as the *mortality* or death rate.]

- a. Mortality rate: the number of deaths in a fixed period of time (a year or a month) or the number of deaths within a group of animals, expressed as a ratio.
- b. Death rate: the number of deaths in a fixed period of time (a year or a month) or the number of deaths within a group of animals, expressed as a ratio.

Natural Resources: anything that exists in nature that can be used; animals, minerals, plants. [Respect for *natural resources*, other hunters, landowners, and non-hunters are a description of the hunter's code.]

Opportunity: to be given a chance; to be a given permission. [If you meet and work with private landowners, you may get the *opportunity* to hunt on the owner's property.]

Osprey: a fish-eating bird of prey; Sea Hawk. [It is illegal to hunt *Osprey* in California.]

Permission: to permit; to be allowed. [When hunting on private land you must have written *permission* from the owner of the property.]

PFD (Personal Flotation Device): life preserver. [When hunting from a boat, each person should wear a *PFD*.]

Primary: the first; most important; earliest. [The four *primary* rules of firearm safety are: (1) point the muzzle in a safe direction; (2) treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun; (3) be sure of the target and what is in front and behind it; (4) keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.]

Priority: coming before another in importance, give attention to one thing before another. [Preventing hunting accidents is your first *priority* as a hunter.]

Privilege: special treatment given to some but not everyone; something that is earned; a special honor or reward; something that can be taken away if misused. [Your hunting *privileges* may be taken away by the Department of Fish and Game if you violate or break the hunting laws.]

Regulations: rules and laws.

- a. Hunting regulations: laws on hunting.
- b. Statutes: rules.

Right: a freedom guaranteed under the Constitution; an entitlement. Unlike a privilege, rights cannot be taken away unless you are convicted of a serious crime. [The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees to each citizen the *right* to own a gun.]

Responsible: to do the right thing, to answer for your actions, to take care of somebody, to decide.

- a. Knowledgeable: well informed. [Hunter education produces *knowledgeable* and *responsible* hunters.]
- b. Responsible hunter: a hunter who obeys the law, respects others, is safe, and ethical. [A *responsible* bow hunter who is hunting deer will always use razor sharp broadheads].

Sport Take: to hunt and kill a game animal; to catch a game fish. [California law requires a hunting license for the *sport take* of any game bird or mammal.]

Telescopic: a telescope; to magnify. [You should never use your *telescopic sight* like a set of binoculars to look for game.]

- a. Telescopic sight: a sight on a rifle (scope) used to see a great distance.
- b. Sight: to take aim.
- c. Sighting-in: adjusting sights to hit a target.

Topographic: A map that shows mountains and valleys; a map that uses lines to show elevation. [The hunter used a *topographic* map to see how high he was on the mountain.]

- a. Terrain: ground or land.
- b. Topography: the physical features of the land, the study of earth's surface.

Tree stand: an elevated platform mounted in a tree from which a hunter waits for game to come within range. [When hunting from a *tree stand*, you should raise your gun or bow into the stand by using a hauling line.]

Vehicle: car, truck, bus, ATV or other form of mechanical transport. [It is against the law to transport a loaded rifle or shotgun in a *vehicle*.]

Violate: to do something that is not allowed; to break the law; to disobey; to not show respect.

Waterfowl: birds (ducks and geese) that swim and feed mostly in water. [While swans are a type of *waterfowl*, it is illegal to hunt swans in California.]

- a. Diving duck: duck that live on lakes and deep ponds and dive for food; they run on the surface of the water to take off.
- b. Puddle duck: duck which favor shallow ponds and marshes, and which spring directly into the air to fly; feed by dabbling or tipping.

Wildlife management: wise use of habitat and animals. [A *wildlife manager's* job is to maintain the number of animals in a habitat at or below the habitat's carrying capacity so that no damage is done to the animals or to their habitat.]

Zone-of-fire: the area in which a hunter may shoot safely. [The area into which a hunter may safely shoot is referred to as the *zone of fire*.]

- a. Field of vision: everything that can be seen at one moment.
- b. Range of sight: the greatest distance you can see clearly.