1. acid precipitation – rain, snow, or sleet having a pH of 5.0 or less
2. resource – any environmental factor used by organisms to survive or carry out daily activities
3. sustainability – the ability of a resource or product to be made, used, and disposed of over and over
4. bioremediation – the use of microorganisms to assist in cleaning contaminated areas by breaking down pollutants
5. greenhouse effect – the trapping and reradiation of heat in the atmosphere by certain gases; required to maintain Earth’s temperature
6. landfill – an area of land set aside and managed for disposal of solid waste by burial
7. global warming – the increase in Earth’s average temperature due to trapping of excess greenhouse gases in the atmosphere
8. pollution – the contamination of the environment with harmful or unnatural substances or with an excess of natural substances
9. recycling – collecting, processing, and reusing of wastes to make new products
10. source reduction – the removal of materials from the waste stream by reusing resources or decreasing the amount of resources used
11. biotic potential – the maximum rate at which a population can grow under ideal circumstances, including sufficient resources
12. carrying capacity – the maximum population size an environment can support, given the resources available
13. exponential growth – unlimited growth, occurring when a population grows at its biotic potential
14. logistic growth – regulated growth, occurring when a population levels off at its carrying capacity due to limitation by resources, predation, or other factors
15. incineration – the disposal of solid waste by burning it at high temperatures
16. waste stream – the continuous flow of solid waste into the country’s waste management system