

GLOSSARY

B

breaker foamy mass of water that washes onto the shore (436)

C

Coriolis effect deflection of wind and ocean currents caused by the Earth's rotation (428)

crest highest point of a wave (433)

current steady movement in one direction, such as that of water in the ocean (427)

D

deep current streamlike movement of water beneath the surface of the ocean (427)

drift weak, slow-moving ocean current (429)

F

fetch distance that wind can blow across open water (435)

G

Gulf Stream swift, warm Atlantic current that flows from the Gulf of Mexico, around Florida, and up the east coast of North America (428)

gyre huge circle of moving ocean water formed as a result of the wind belts and the Coriolis effect (428)

N

neap tide tide with minimum daily tidal range that occurs during the first and third quarters of the moon (440)

R

refraction bending of a wave as it reaches shallow water (437)

rip current swift movement of water caused by the return of water to the ocean through channels in underwater sand bars (437)

GLOSSARY

S

spring tide tide with maximum daily tidal range that occurs during the new and full moons (440)

surface current streamlike movement of water on or near the surface of the ocean (427)

swell one of a group of long, rolling waves that are all the same size (434)

T

tidal bore surge of water that rushes upstream in a river as the tide rises (443)

tidal current movement of water toward and away from the coast due to the rise and fall of the tides (443)

tidal oscillation slow, rocking motion of ocean water that occurs as tidal bulges move around the Earth (442)

tidal range difference between the levels of the high and low tides at a specific location (440)

tide daily change in the level of the ocean surface (439)

trough lowest point between two wave crests (433)

U

undertow irregular current that pulls water from a beach back to the ocean (437)

W

wave periodic up-and-down movement of water (433)

wave height vertical distance between the crest and the trough of a wave (433)

wave period time required for a complete wavelength to pass a given point (433)

whitecap crest of a wave that is blown off by high winds (435)