Catastrophic Events

1. Catastrophic event – extreme weather events that are classified by the extent and intensity of their impact on the ecosystem
2. Drought –a prolonged time without rain, this can cause the ground to crack, cause damage to crops, and limit the water supply
3. Earthquake-  sudden movement of rock within Earth's crust caused by accumulated stress along a fault or a sudden shaking of the ground caused by tectonic plate movement that generates seismic waves
4. Tsunami - a giant ocean wave
5. Flood – a rising body of water that submerges normally dry land
6. Hurricane - a tropical cyclone with wind speeds from 74 to 249 MPH
7. Typhoon– A tropical cyclone occurring in the western Pacific or Indian oceans.
8. Tornado – a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground with wind speeds from 40 to 318 MPH
9. Volcano – a mountain formed by extrusion and accumulation of lava and pyroclastic material
10. Landslide – The downward sliding of a relatively dry mass of earth and rock
11. Ecosystem – a community of organisms and their non-living environment
12. Population – the group of organisms of the same species living in the same area
13. Species – a group of organisms that share similar characteristics and can mate with each other to produce offspring
14. Tropical storm – A tropical cyclone having sustained surface winds between 39 and 73 MPH
15. Blizzard - A violent snowstorm with winds blowing at a minimum speed of 35 MPH and visibility of less than one-quarter mile for three hours

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