

Absorption

- concentration of a substance through a surface; passing of a substance through a surface

aerobic bacteria

bacteria that use oxygen

aerosols

mixtures of small particles suspended in
liquid or gas

anaerobic bacteria

bacteria not using oxygen; usually carrying
on fermentation

anemometer:

- instrument to measure wind speed

angle of insolation:

- angle of sun's rays as they hit the surface of Earth; decreases with increase in latitude; varies with time of day and day of year

aphelion:

- point in Earth's orbit when Earth is farthest from Sun

arid climate:

- dry area of land; with greater likelihood of evaporation than of precipitation

atmosphere:

- thin shell of gases surrounding a planet

axis:

- center of Earth between North and South Poles, about which Earth rotates

backwash:

- water from breaking waves that gravity pulls back from the beach

banding:

- pattern of layers of minerals in many metamorphic rocks

barometer:

- instrument used to measure air pressure

. barycenter:

- point in a system of bodies (such as Earth and Moon) which is considered to be the center of the system

. base flow:

- water moving from the local water table into streams

bedrock:

- solid rock under soil or exposed rock at Earth's surface

. bench mark:

- ground marker of exact elevation above sea level

biocide:

- substance harmful to plants and animals

biological pollutant:

- harmful concentrations of biological organisms