**Unit 5 – Communicable Diseases Vocabulary**

**Lesson 1 – What Are Communicable Diseases?**

**Communicable Diseases**- disease that is spread from one living thing to another or through the environment

**Pathogen** - an organism that causes disease

**Infection** - a condition that occurs when pathogens enter the body, multiply, and damage body cells.

**Viruses** - pieces of genetic material surrounded by a protein coat.

**Bacteria** - single-celled microorganisms that live almost everywhere on earth.

**Toxin-** a substance that kills cells or interferes with their functions.

**Vector** - an organism, usually an arthropod, such as a tick that carries and transmits pathogens to humans or other animals.