

Ecosystems Vocabulary- 1st Quarter

Concept/Vocabulary Word	Definition
abiotic	Non-living factors like rain, sun, minerals in soil, and temperature
adaptation	a change in order to fit a new situation or use
aquatic	Having to do with water.
biodiversity	a wide variety of organisms
biome	an ecosystem with its own climate, soil, plants, and animals
biotic	Living factors like plants, animals, and bacteria
carnivore	a consumer which gets its energy by eating only meat/animal flesh
community	the population that lives in the same area
consumer	An organism that gets energy from eating other organisms.
control	The variable in an experiment which is kept the same to ensure accuracy.
decomposer	An organism that gets its energy from breaking down decaying organic material. The role of decomposers is the recycling of nutrients throughout the ecosystem.
ecology	science concerned with the relationship of living things to each other and to their natural environment
ecosystem	An interconnected community of organisms interacting with and depending on one another and the physical environment.
environment	everything that surrounds an organism and influences it
Fair Test	An experiment where only one thing is changed, and every other element remains constant.
fertile	rich in nutrients
food chain	a graphic which traces energy flow in an ecosystem; for example: sun>;water plants>;fish>;raccoon

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forest	An area of land densely populated with trees.
germination	process by which seeds swell up and begin to sprout and develop roots
grassland	A large, flat area of land with few trees which is mostly populated by tall grasses.
habitat	place where an organism lives
herbivore	a consumer which gets its energy by eating only plants and vegetation
model	A small-scale version of a system that shows how the system works.
niche	The specific role an organism plays within its ecosystem.
omnivore	a consumer which gets its energy by eating both plants and meat/animal flesh
organism	a living thing
photosynthesis	The process by which plants use carbon dioxide and sunlight to create sugar for themselves for food, as well as oxygen.
pollutant	A substance which, when introduced into an ecosystem, has a negative effect on the organisms living within.
population	a group of organisms all of the same species
predator	organisms that eat other organisms
prey	animals predators eat
producer	an organism that can make its own food through the process of photosynthesis
radiation	A way that heat energy can travel. Radiation occurs when heat energy leaves its source and travels through water or air to reach its destination.
species	a certain group of organisms with the same characteristics and looks

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symbiosis	A close, prolonged relationship between two organisms of different species that may, but does not necessarily, benefit the organisms.
terrarium	a closed glass or plastic container where terrestrial (land) organisms can live and be observed
terrestrial	Having to do with land or the Earth.
variable	The element of an experiment that is changed or tested.