
Ecologist: _____

KEY

Date: ____ - ____ - ____ HR: ____

Unit 5: Ecosystems Vocabulary List

ecosystem	population	community	producer	consumer	decomposer
biotic	abiotic	competition	parasitism	symbiotic relationship	predator
prey	mutualism	commensalism	biodiversity	food web	food chain
carbon cycle	individual	energy pyramid			

1. ecosystem	a community and its physical environment together
2. decomposer	an organism that obtains energy for growth and development from breaking down remains of dead plants or animals
3. population	all the individuals of the same kind of species living in the same environment
4. consumer	an organism that obtains energy for growth and development from other animals or plants
5. community	all the populations of organisms living together in an environment
6. biotic	living components of an ecosystem
7. producer	an organism that obtains energy for growth and development from the sun (PLANTS)
8. predator	an animal that eats other animals
9. mutualism	both organisms benefit from relationship
10. abiotic	non-living components of an ecosystem
11. competition	the struggle between two organisms for the same resources within an environment; resources are required for survival / reproduction (examples include food, water, shelter, light, territory, and mates)

12. commensalism	One organism benefits from the relationship and the other organism is not helped OR harmed.
13. parasitism	One organism benefits from relationship and the other is harmed
14. biodiversity	the variety of living things in a given space; might be a small stream, extensive dessert, all the forests in the world, the oceans, or the entire planet
15. symbiotic relationship	describes close, long-lasting interactions between two different species
16. prey	an animal being hunted, caught, and eaten by another animal
17. ecologist	a person that studies living things
18. individual	a single organism in an environment
19. food web	a diagram made up of many food chains showing which animals eat other animals; shows the transfer of energy
20. food chain	a diagram that shows the flow of energy through an ecosystem; arrows represent the flow of energy
21. energy pyramid	a triangular diagram that shows the amount of energy available to be passed from one level to the next
22. carbon cycle	the process in which carbon atoms continually travel from the atmosphere to the Earth and then back into the atmosphere

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