

**Ecology:** Study of interactions of living organisms with one another and their physical environment

**Habitat:** place where a particular population of a species lives

**Population:** all the members of the same species in an area

**Community:** the many different species that live together in a habitat

**Ecosystem:** a community and all of the physical aspects of its habitat (soil, air, water, weather)

**Abiotic:** the non-living aspects of a habitat

**Biotic:** the living organisms of a habitat

**Niche:** the role or job of an organism in its habitat

**Adaptation:** A trait or characteristic that helps an organism survive

**Succession:** regular progression of species replacement

**Autotroph:** Organisms that make their own food, producers

**Heterotroph:** Organisms that consume producers for food, consumers

**Producer:** organisms that first capture energy and that make their own food

**Consumer:** organisms that consume producers for food

**Food Chain:** the path of energy through the trophic levels of an ecosystem

**Herbivores:** animals that eat plants or other primary producer

**Carnivores:** animals that eat herbivores

**Omnivores:** both herbivores and carnivores

**Decomposer:** An animal that breaks down organisms (dead or otherwise)

**Food Web:** a complicated, interconnected group of food chains

**Predator:** an organism who hunts others for food

**Prey:** an organism that is hunted

**Symbiosis:** two or more species live together in a close, long-term association

**Parasitism:** one organism feeds on and usually lives on or in another

**Mutualism:** a symbiotic relationship in which both species benefit

**Commensalism:** one species benefits and the other is neither harmed nor helped

