

# biotic

Definition – living or once living organisms in the environment

Characteristics – examples of once living organisms might be a dead tree, fallen log, leaves, dead animals

Example – living

Picture

# abiotic

Definition – the nonliving parts of the environment

Characteristics – these include water, sunlight, temperature, air and soil. Determines which organisms are able to live in a particular environment, these do not provide everything an organism needs to survive

Example – not ever alive

Picture -

# ecology

Definition – the study of how living and nonliving things interact

Characteristics – ecologists study these relationships

The study of plants and animals in relation to one another and to their surroundings (environment)

Examples – our home

Picture

# environment

Definition – physical, chemical and biotic factors that act upon an organism and determine its form and survival

Characteristics – Our Environment is our surrounding, living and non-living; all plants and animals adjust to the environment in which they are born and live. A change in any component of the environment may cause discomfort and affect normal life. Different plants and animals are found in different environments suitable to them

Examples – surroundings

Picture

# Limiting factor

Definition – any biotic or abiotic factor that limits the number of individuals in a population

Characteristics – all ecosystems have a limited amount of food, water, living space, mates, nesting sites and other resources

The north Texas drought last summer was a limiting factor

Example – capacity

Picture -

# ecosystem

Definition – all of the communities in an area and the abiotic factors that affect them

Characteristics –this includes populations and their physical surroundings. Not just the plants and animals, but the air, soil, sunlight, temperature and water

Example – forest and nonliving things

Picture -

# population

Definition – all of the individuals of one species that live in the same area at the same time

Characteristics – all of one particular animal or plant living in a specific area

all of the rabbits, or squirrels, or deer in an area

Population size is determined by the environment and how the organisms use the environment

Example – one kind of animal or plant

Picture -

# community

Definition – the different species (populations) that interact in some way

Characteristics – organisms who share an environment

All of the populations in a given environment

All of the rabbits, squirrels and deer in an area

Populations living in an area depend on each other for food, shelter and other needs

Example – forest

Picture -



# habitat

Definition – the environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows

Characteristics- The habitat must supply the needs of organisms, such as food, water, temperature, oxygen, and minerals. If the population's needs are not met, it will move to a better habitat.

Example – territory

Picture -

# niche

Definition – all of the interactions of a species with the other members of its community

Characteristics- a niche is considered the “job” or “role” that a species performs within nature.

An organisms habitat is its address, then its niche could be called its job description

Example – job

Picture -

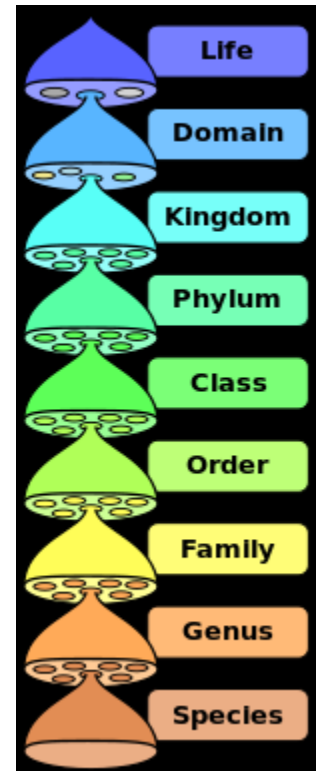
# species

Definition – a group of animals, plants or other living things that all share common characteristics and that are all classified as alike in some manner

Characteristics- species can mate with one another to produce fertile offspring, an example of two animals mating who are not the same species would be a horse and a donkey that produce the mule which cannot breed

Example – same kind

Picture -



# Interdependence

Definition - To depend on one another

Characteristics – All the living things in an ecosystem depend on all the other things - living and non-living for continued survival - for food supplies and other needs.

Example – interconnected

Picture