

Ecosystems Vocabulary

Biotic- Living parts of our environment

Abiotic- Non-living parts of our environment

Ecosystem- All living and no nonliving things in a certain area

Organism- smallest unit of ecological organization

Biome-All the ecosystems on the planet

Population- a group of the same species

Community- many different groups of populations in an area

Habitat- place where an organism lives and that provides food, water & shelter

Producer- makes its own food through photosynthesis

Consumer- eats plants and animals

Decomposer- eats dead plants and animals and turns them into nutrients in the soil

Herbivore- eats only plants

Carnivore- eats only animals

Omnivore- eats both plants and animals

Primary Consumer- eats producers

Secondary Consumer- eats primary consumers

Predator- an animal that kills and eats other animals

Carrying capacity- Largest population an environment can support at any given time

Limiting Factor- factors that limit the size of a population (food, water, shelter)

Desert- Hot days, cool nights, little precipitation- poor in animal and plant decay

Tundra- very cold precipitation 4-10 inches a year- permafrost layer- nutrient poor soil

Grassland- cool winter, hot summer, precipitation 12 inches a year- rich topsoil

Deciduous Forest- mild summer, cold winters precipitation 30-50 inches a year- rich topsoil over clay

Taiga- very cold winters, cool summers- precipitation 20 inches a year- acidic soil

Tropical Rain Forest- Hot all year- precipitation 80-100 inches a year- nutrient poor soil

Aquatic Marine- 7 oceans, estuaries and coral reefs-warm water toward top-

Fresh water- lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands- warmer near equator-