Interactions Among Living Things

Environment- All of the living and non-living things with which an organism may interact.

Ecology- The study of the relationships and interactions of living things with one another and their environment.

Ecosystem- All of the living and non-living things **in a given area** that interact with one another.

Community- The living part of any ecosystem- all the different organisms that live together.

Population- A group organisms of the same type, or **species**.

Species- Group of similar organisms that can produce offspring.

Habitat- The place in which an organism lives.

Producer- The source of all food in an ecosystem. Producers are able to use sunlight to turn simple raw materials into food. *photosynthesis*

Consumer- An organism that feeds directly or indirectly on producers.

Decomposer- Break down dead organisms into simpler substances.

Food Chain- A series of events in which food and energy are transferred from one organism to another in an ecosystem.

Food Web- A group of food chains interconnected.

Competition- The struggle among living things to get the proper amount of food, water, and energy.

Predator- Organism that kills and eats other organisms.

Prey- Organism that is killed and eaten by a predator

Symbiosis- Relationship in which an organism lives on, near, or in another organism, and at least one of the organisms benefits.

Niche- Role of an organism in its community or environment.

Commensalism- Type of symbiosis. One organism benefits and the other is not affected.

Mutualism- Type of symbiosis. Relationship is helpful to both organisms.

Parasitism- Type of symbiosis. Relationship in which one organism benefits and the other organism is harmed.

Parasite- Organism that feeds on other living organisms.

Host- Organism in which/ on which another organism lives.

Autotroph- Organisms that use energy (sunlight) to create (photosynthesis) their own food. Another name for producer.

Heterotroph- Organisms that must consume other organisms for the food and energy they need to survive. Consumers and decomposers.