

7 Ecology

Ecosystem	The interaction of a community of living organisms with their environment
Biotic	Living factors affecting an organisms e.g. predators, food, disease
Abiotic	Non-living factors affecting an organism e.g. weather, altitude
Interdependence	Different species rely on each other for survival within an ecosystem
Adaptations	Features that help an organism survive in a particular habitat
Habitat	Natural environment of a particular organism
Competition	The process by which organisms try to gain raw materials over each other. Plants compete for space, light water and mineral ions Animals compete for shelter, food, water and mates
Biodiversity	The variety of all the living organisms within the earth or ecosystem. Ways to maintain biodiversity include zoos, seed banks, protection of habitats
Producer	An organism that makes its own food by photosynthesis. They are the starting point of all food chains
Consumer	Organism that eats something
Predator	Consumer that hunts
Prey	Consumer that is hunted
Transect	Sampling method which samples at regular spaces along a strip to measure the variation of a species
Quadrat	Sampling technique where a metal square is placed randomly in an area to determine an estimate of the population of a species
Mean	Average. Add up the values and divide by the number of results used
Mode	The most common value
Median	The value that is half the range of results
Peat bog	A waterlogged area where plants do not decompose. The rotting plants are a huge store of carbon and destruction of peat bogs due to farming will lead to lots of CO ₂ in the atmosphere
Deforestation	The cutting of trees for farmland or for wood products. It leads to global warming because of reduced photosynthesis
Global warming	The warming of the Earth's atmosphere because carbon dioxide traps heat. It leads to climate change, extreme weather events and melting ice caps.