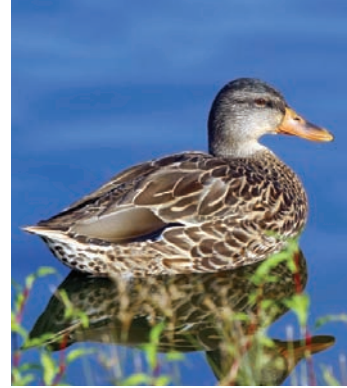


Ecosystems

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Glossary

abiotic (ay-bye-AH-tik) nonliving (4)

biotic (bye-AH-tik) living (4)

carnivore (KAHR-nuh-vor) a consumer that eats only animals (12)

community (kuh-MYOO-nuh-tee) all the different populations of organisms living together in one area (5)

competition (kom-puh-TISH-uhn) the struggle among living things that share the same resources such as sources of food, water, or shelter (15)

consumer (kuhn-SOO-mur) a living thing that cannot make its own food and must get energy by eating other living things; animals are consumers (12)

decomposer (dee-kuhm-POH-zur) a living thing that gets energy by breaking down the remains of dead plants and animals; fungi (such as mushrooms), bacteria, and some animals (such as insects and earthworms) are decomposers (13)

diversity (duh-VUR-suh-tee) variety (5)

ecologist (ee-KAH-luh-jist) a scientist who studies ecosystems (18)

ecosystem (EE-koh-sis-tuhm) all the living and nonliving things in one area and all their interactions; examples are grassland, desert, rain forest, and freshwater ecosystems (4)

energy pyramid (EN-ur-jee PIR-uh-mid) a diagram that shows the amount of energy moving through a food chain (22)

environment (en-VYE-ruhn-muhnt) all the physical things and conditions, such as soil, air, climate, plants, and animals, that surround a living thing (4)

food chain (FOOD CHAYN) a series of organisms that depend on one another for food; energy is transferred from one organism to another in a food chain (18)

food web (FOOD WEB) the connected food chains in a community (20)

habitat (HAB-i-tat) the area in nature that is home to a living thing (10)

herbivore (HUR-buh-vor) a consumer that eats only plants (12)

niche (NICH) the role of a living thing in its habitat; includes where an organism lives, what it eats or takes in from its surroundings, and how it affects the other living and nonliving things in its habitat (21)

omnivore (OM-nuh-vor) a consumer that eats both plants and animals (12)

organism (OR-guh-niz-uhm) a living thing such as a plant or an animal (4)

photosynthesis (foh-toh-SIN-thuh-sis) the process by which a producer, such as a plant, makes its own food (11)

population (pop-yuh-LAY-shuhn) all the members of one species living in an area (5)

predator (PRED-uh-tur) an animal that hunts and eats other animals (13)

prey (PRAY) an animal that is hunted and eaten by a predator (13)

producer (pruh-DOO-sur) a living thing that produces its own food and serves as food for consumers; most plants are producers (11)

scavenger (SKAV-uhn-jur) a consumer that eats animals that are already dead (12)

species (SPEE-sheez) a group composed of all the living things of the same type; mallard ducks and great blue herons are two different species of birds (5)

symbiosis (sim-bye-OH-sis) a relationship between two living things of different species that helps at least one of them meet its needs (14)

system (SIS-tuhm) a group of parts that function together or are connected in some way, forming a whole (5)