

Ecosystem Vocabulary

6th 6 Weeks Vocabulary

Name: _____ Per: _____

predator: an animal that eats other animals

prey: an animal hunted for food

parasite: A creature that lives off another organism

mutualism: a relationship between two species of organisms in which both benefit from the association.

commensalism: An association between two organisms in which one benefits and the other derives neither benefit nor harm.

host: An [organism](#) that is [infected](#) with or is fed upon by a [parasitic](#) or [pathogenic organism](#) .

abiotic: non-living factors in an ecosystem

biotic: living factors in an ecosystem

competition: is an interaction between organisms or species, in which the fitness of one is lowered by the presence of another.

interdependent: of two or more people or things) Dependent on each other.

ecosystem:a complex set of relationships among the living resources, habitats, and residents of an area.

runoff:The draining away of water (or substances carried in it) from the surface of an area of land, a building or structure, etc.

pollution:The presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance or thing that has harmful or poisonous effects.

trait: A genetically determined characteristic.

artificial reef: a human-made underwater structure, typically built to promote marine life in areas with a generally featureless bottom, control erosion,

drought: A prolonged period of abnormally low precipitation; a shortage of water resulting from this.

consumer: eats other organisms for energy

producer: able to produce own energy

food chain: A series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of food.

food web: A system of interlocking and interdependent food chains.

energy pyramid: an ecological pyramid (also trophic pyramid or energy pyramid) is a graphical representation designed to show the [biomass](#) or [biomass productivity](#) at each [trophic level](#) in a given [ecosystem](#).

primary consumer: An animal that eats grass and other green plants in a food chain; an herbivore.

secondary consumer: An animal that feeds on smaller plant-eating animals in a food chain.

tertiary consumer: a carnivore at the topmost level in a food chain that feeds on other carnivores

decomposer: An organism, esp. a soil bacterium, fungus, or invertebrate, that decomposes organic material.