

ecosystem

is an area where living organisms interact with other living organisms, as well as non-living things

biotic

means 'living' things in the environment

abiotic

means 'non-living' things in the environment

species

refers to organisms that have similar structures and reproduce among themselves

population

refers to all members of the same species living in the same area

community

includes all the populations of different species living and interacting in a specific area

basic needs

are those things that living things need in order to survive, including water, food, energy, oxygen, habitat

symbiosis

is a relationship between or among living things where the relationship may benefit one or both in the relationship

commensalism

is a symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits and the other is unaffected

mutualism

is a symbiotic relationship in which both organisms benefit

parasitism

is a symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits and the other is harmed

adaptation

is how organisms respond to their environment in order to survive and reproduce

NIMBY

means 'not in my backyard' – referring to an opinion in which people resist solutions if they are directly affected by the action

sanitary landfill

is a landfill (dump) that has a clay liner and pipes designed not prevent leaking of hazardous chemicals

consumer

is any organism that has to find and consume other living things for food

carnivores

are those consumers that eat mainly animals

omnivores

are those consumers that eat animals and plants

herbivores

are those consumers that eat mainly plants

producer

are those organisms that make their own food and provide food for other organisms

photosynthesis

is the food making process in plants that converts light energy to chemical energy and stores it in the form of sugar

cellular respiration

is the process, occurring in cells of living things, responsible for the release of energy needed for life

scavengers

are consumers that don't kill for food, but feed off the remains of once living things that are killed by other consumers

decomposers

are consumers that breakdown remains of once living things (dead plants and animals)

food chain

is a way of showing how energy flows between and among organisms in an ecosystem

food web

is the collection and linking of different food chains

food pyramid

represents the total energy in an ecosystem, with producers on the bottom layer and carnivores on top

cycle

is an action that occurs repeated in the same pattern

water cycle

is the movement of water in the environment – evaporation, condensation, precipitation, storage

carbon cycle

is the movement of carbon in the environment (through living and non-living matter)

Ethnobotanist

is a scientist that works with plant specialists and native elders to find out how plants can be used

quadrant sampling

refers to a staked out predetermined area where a sample of organisms within the quadrant are counted

Ecologist

is a scientist who studies relationships of living things to one another and to their environment

wetland

is an area of the environment where soil is saturated with moisture either permanently or seasonally

bioinvasion

refers to the purposeful or accidental introduction of non native species to an area

competition

refers to members of a community competing for biotic and abiotic resources available

predation

is the interaction between predator and prey

prey

are those living things that are hunted for food

pioneer species

is the first species to arrive in a particular area

succession

is a predictable pattern of change in an ecosystem

primary succession

occurs in areas where no life ever existed

climax community

is a stable community of a diverse number of species that is not easily replaced by other communities

secondary succession

occurs when a community has been destroyed or disrupted by a natural event or human activity

extinct

is when there are no members of a specific species left anywhere on the Earth

endangered

refers to species that are in danger of extinction

threatened

is any species whose population numbers are declining to the point they could become endangered

COSEWIC

is the Canadian Wildlife Service' special committee that determines which species are at risk and need protection

ecological footprint

shows us what impact our lifestyle has on Earth's ecology – including: food, housing, transportation, consumer products and services

sustainability

utilizes resources so that human needs are met, while saving the environment now and for future generations

reduce

means to use less

reuse

means to use again – over and over

recycle

means to make into something else