

Glossary

adaptation • a feature of a plant or animal that allows the plant or animal to adjust to a specific environment

aquatic • growing or living in water

bacteria • tiny one-celled organisms that can survive almost everywhere and can only be seen with a microscope

carnivores • animals that eat other animals

chlorophyll • a specialized molecule found in green plants; it captures light energy and changes it into chemical energy

classify • sort into groups

community • a collection of several populations of plants and animals that interact with each other in one place

competition • demand for food and habitat by different living things

conservation areas • places where plants and animals are protected in their natural environment

consumers • living things that eat green plants or animals

decomposers • living organisms that feed on the leftovers of dead plants and animals, plus animal wastes and moulted fur and skin

ecology • the study of how animals and plants live with each other and with their environments

ecologist • a person who studies ecology

ecosystem • all living and non-living things in a specific area

environment • the surroundings of a plant or animal, including climate, light, and land features

field study • a trip to study actual habitats

food chains • feeding relationships that show how energy is transferred from one living thing to another

food webs • many food chains in a community that are linked together

habitat • a place where an animal or plant lives

herbivores • animals that eat plants

introduced species • a species of plant or animal placed in a habitat that is not its own

migrate • when a plant or animal moves from one place to another

niche • the job a plant or animal does in its community

non-living things • food, air, water, light, warmth, space: all needed by living things

nutrients • nourishing substances found in food stuff

omnivores • animals that eat plants and other animals

photosynthesis • the method whereby plants use the energy of sunlight to change carbon dioxide and water into food for themselves

population • a group of organisms of the same species living in the same habitat

predators • animals that hunt other animals for food

prey • an animal that is hunted for food

producers • green plants that make their own food from the sun's energy

rural • in the country

scavengers • animals that eat dead or dying animals

transfer of energy • energy flow between living things

urban • in a town or city