

# Biology

## Vocabulary List

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Abiotic → nonliving factors of an ecosystem

Abundance → The number of organisms/individuals in an area

Adaptation → The process of change in which an organism becomes better suited to its environment

Allelopathy → the chemical inhibition of one plant (or other organism) by another due to the release of biochemicals. Eg. Black walnut tree releasing chemicals toxic to nightshade plants (tomatoes) to prevent overcrowding at its roots.

Aquatic → An aquatic plant/ animal → relating to water

Biomass → The total quantity of weight of organisms in a given area or volume

Biome → A large naturally occurring community of flora + fauna occupying a major habitat

Biotic → Living factors of an ecosystem

Climate → The weather conditions in an area over a long period

Commensalism → A relationship between two organisms in which one benefits and the other is neither harmed or benefited.

Community → A group of organisms living in the same place or sharing a particular characteristic

Convergent

Distribution → The locations organisms can usually be found

Divergent

Ecosystem → A biological community that exists only in one geographic region

Endemic Species → Plants + animals that exist only in one geographic region

Environment → The surroundings or conditions in which a person or organism lives

Evolution

Extinction → The wipeout of a species

Food Chain → A series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of food

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Food Web → a system of interlocking and interdependent food chains

Habitat → the natural home or environment for an organism

Marine → Relating to or found in the sea

Mutualism → Symbiosis that is beneficial to both organisms (See symbiosis)

Natural selection

Niche → The relational position of a population in an ecosystem and includes the species interaction with biotic and abiotic factors

Parasitism → A relationship between species, where one organism, the parasite, lives on or in another organism, the host, causing it some harm

Population → A community of organisms in which breeding occurs (See community)

Sclerophyll → A type of vegetation with tough leaves to reduce water loss. Eg. Eucalypt

Sedentary → Low moving organisms.

- Selection pressure

Sessile → Fixed in one place; immovable

Species → A group of living organisms with similar individuals or characteristics

Speciation → the formation of new and distinct species in the course of evolution

Symbiosis → When two or more organisms have a prolonged association that may benefit/harm each member (See allelopathy, parasitism, commensalism, mutualism)

Terrestrial → On or relating to the Earth

Topography → the distribution of parts or features on the surface of or within an organism