

## Ecology Chapter 1 Vocabulary

Biosphere-	The part of the Earth that supports life, including the top of the Earth's crust, the atmosphere, and all the water on Earth's surface.
Biotic Potential-	The highest rate of production under ideal conditions.
Carrying Capacity-	Largest number of individuals of a particular species that an ecosystem can support over time.
Commensalism-	a type of symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits and the other organism is not affected.
Community-	all the populations of different species that live in an ecosystem.
Consumer-	organism that cannot create energy- obtains its food by eating other organisms.
Ecology-	the study of interactions that take place among organisms and their environment.
Exponential Growth-	the larger the population becomes, the faster it grows
Food Chain-	a model of the feeding relationships in an ecosystem.
Habitat-	place where an organism lives and that provides the types of food, shelter, moisture, and temperature needed for survival.
Limiting Factor-	anything that can restrict the size of a population, including living and nonliving features of an ecosystem, such as predators or drought.
Mutualism-	a type of symbiotic relationship in which both organisms benefit.
Niche-	in an ecosystem, refers to the unique ways an organism survives, obtains food and shelter, and avoids danger.
Parasitism-	a type of symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits and the other organism is harmed.
Population-	all the organisms that belong to the same species living in a community.

Population Density- the size of a population that occupies a specific area

Predator- consumers that capture and eat other consumers.

Prey- the organism that is captured by a predator.

Producer- organisms, such as a green plant that uses an outside source of energy like the Sun to create energy-rich food molecules.

Symbiosis- any close relationship between species, including mutualism, commensalisms, and parasitism.