

Unit Key Vocabulary terms

Talking points

- **Ecosystem** – biological communities (population of living organisms) and their interaction with the non-living things.
- **Habitat** – place an organism lives.
 - They live there because it contains all the resources for its survival.
 - Organisms interact with one another in their ecosystem in order to get the resources they need for their survival.
- **Sun** – is the source of energy that flows through the ecosystem.
- **Producers** – makes their own food by making use of the sun's energy through photosynthesis.
- **Consumers** – organisms that eats other organisms to get their energy.
- **Herbivores** – organisms that eats only plants(producers).e.g. Cow eats grass
- **Carnivores** – organisms that eats other animals – e.g.
- **Omnivores** – organisms that eats both plants and animals.e.g. Humans
- **Scavengers** – organisms that eats dead plants and animals e.g.
- **Prey** – organisms eaten by predators.
- **Predators** – Organisms that kills and eats another organism. Example – Cat (predator) and rat (prey)
- **Decomposers** – organisms that breaks down dead organisms. e.g. bacteria
 - They receive energy from other organisms and create organic matter from previously living things.

- **Food chain** – outlines the flow of energy from producers to consumers to decomposers.
- **Food web** – network of food chains that links together in the ecosystem
 - Linear flow of energy in the ecosystem

- **All organisms in an ecosystem are interdependent**
 - **Reliance of every life form on other organisms and the environment.**

- **Limiting factors**
 - ➔ Conditions that exist to ensure the population in an ecosystem remains balanced due to limited resources.

- **Adaptations**
 - ➔ Process or features that enable the organism to fit and adjust to the changes in its environment.
 - ➔ Example – camouflagage – color of the grasshopper fits well/similar to the grasses they are feeding on.

- **Competition**
 - **Happens among organisms in an ecosystem for resources (food, water, sunlight, nutrients, and habitat) for their survival.**
 - **Intra - specific competition**
 - ➔ Competition between organisms of the same species.
 - ➔ Example – 5 caterpillars feeds on a slippery leaflet.
 - **Inter – specific competition**
 - ➔ **Occurs between organisms of different species.**
 - ➔ Humans and caterpillars compete for slippery cabbage.

- Population – of a species is all members of the same group breed and live together in an area.
- Ecological community – interacting populations

- Changes in the environment can disrupt the natural balance of an ecosystem.
- Human interaction can cause many changes in the environment. Therefore, they have the role to conserve the environments to protect the biodiversity of species.
- Climate – average weather in a certain area over a period of time