

Ecosystems Study Guide

1. What does an ecosystem include?
 2. What is a decomposer and why are they important?
 3. What is succession?
 4. What often causes animals to become extinct?
 5. What does “producer” mean?
 6. What is a habitat?
 7. Energy that flows through food chains starts with the _____. It always then flows _____, _____, _____.
 8. What does adaptation mean?
 9. What is a community?
 10. Animals at the top of the food chain have no _____.
 11. What does an animal need to survive?
 12. What is a behavioral and structural adaptation?
 13. What is a niche?
 14. What is a food web?
 15. What is a drought? What happens when a drought occurs?
1. All of the living and nonliving things in an area
 2. An organism that breaks down dead plants and animals. They return nutrients to the food chain. Ex. mushroom, fungi, worm, bacteria
 3. When one living community is replaced by a new community
 4. loss of habitat
 5. Something that makes its own food (no mouth)- All plants are producers
 6. The environment or surroundings in which an organism lives
 7. Sun -> producer -> herbivore -> carnivore
 8. a behavior or body part that helps an animal to survive
 9. all the plants, animals and other organisms that live together OR a group that is defined by the set of interrelated niches within it.
 10. predators
 11. food, water, shelter or space to live
 12. Behavioral = something the animal DOES to survive ex. hibernation, migration, playing dead
Structural= Something the animal's BODY has to survive ex. porcupine quills, camouflage, Camel's hump, giraffe's long legs
 13. The specific role an organism plays in a food chain, together with the place it lives and how it interacts with its environment
 14. A set of overlapping food chains
 15. A long period with no rain. First the plants die, then the herbivores, and so on up the food chain