

CB9a Ecosystems

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
abundance		A measure of how common something is.
community		All the different organisms living and interacting with one another in a particular area.
ecosystem		An area in which all the living organisms and all the non-living physical factors in an area form a stable relationship that needs no input from outside the area to remain stable.
food web		A diagram of interlinked food chains. It shows how the feeding relationships in a community are interdependent.
habitat		The place in which an organism lives, e.g. woodland or sea shore.
interdependent		When organisms in an area need each other for resources, e.g. for food and shelter.
population		A group of one species living in the same area.
quadrat	<i>qwod-rat</i>	A square frame of known area, such as 1 m ² , that is placed on the ground to get a sample of the organisms living in a small area.
resources		Something that an organism needs to stay alive such as food, water and space.
sample		A small portion of an area or population.

CB9b Abiotic factors and communities

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
abiotic factors	<i>ay-bi-ot-ick</i>	Non-living conditions that can influence where plants or animals live (e.g. temperature, the amount of light).
adaptation	<i>ad-ap-tay-shun</i>	The features of an organism that enable it to do a certain function (job).
belt transect		A line in an environment along which samples are taken to measure the effect of an abiotic factor on the distribution of organisms.
distribution		The places in which a certain organism can be found in an area.
drought	<i>drowt</i>	Lack of water.
pollutant	<i>poll-oo-tant</i>	A substance that harms living organisms when released into the environment.
pollution	<i>poll-oo-shun</i>	Harm caused to the environment, such as by adding poisonous substances or by abnormally high amounts of a substance.

CB9c Biotic factors and communities

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
biodiversity		The variety of species in an area.
biotic factors	<i>bi-ot-ick</i>	Living components (the organisms) in an ecosystem.
compete	<i>com-peat</i>	When organisms interact to get a limited resource that they need.
competition	<i>com-pet-i-shun</i>	When organisms need the same resources as each other, they struggle against each other to get those resources. We say that they 'compete' for those things.
predation	<i>pre-day-shun</i>	When one animal species kills and eats another animal species.
predator–prey cycle		The regular variation in numbers of predators and numbers of prey within a feeding relationship.

CB9d Parasitism and mutualism

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
host		An individual that can be infected by a certain pathogen.
mutualism	<i>mew-tew-a-lism</i>	A relationship between individuals of different species where both individuals benefit, e.g. by getting more food or shelter than if they were on their own.
parasite		An organism that lives on or in a host organism and takes food from it while it is alive.
parasitism		A feeding relationship in which a parasite benefits and its host is harmed.

CB9e Biodiversity and humans

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
eutrophication		The addition of more nutrients to an ecosystem than it normally has.
fish farming		Growing fish in a contained area, usually to supply humans with food.
indigenous	<i>in-dij-en-us</i>	Organisms that have always been in an area. (Another word for native.)
native		See indigenous.
non-indigenous	<i>non-in-dij-en-us</i>	Organisms that have been introduced to an area where they haven't been before.
overfishing		Taking more fish from a population than are replaced by the fish reproducing so that the population number falls each year.

CB9f Preserving biodiversity

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
captivity		Keeping something in unnatural surroundings, such as animals in a zoo.
conservation	<i>con-ser-vay-shun</i>	The protection of an area or species to prevent damage.
endangered		An area or species that is at great risk of destruction.
reforestation		Planting new forests where old forests have been cut down.

CB9g The water cycle

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
desalination		A process that produces fresh drinking water by separating the water from the salts in salty water.
distillation		The process of separating a liquid from a mixture by evaporating the liquid and then condensing it (so that it can be collected).
potable		Suitable for drinking.
water cycle		A sequence of processes by which water moves through abiotic and biotic parts of an ecosystem.

CB9h The carbon cycle

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
biomass		The total mass in living organisms, usually shown as the mass after drying.
carbon cycle		A sequence of processes by which carbon moves from the atmosphere, through living and dead organisms, into sediments and into the atmosphere again.
decay		A process in which complex substances in dead plant and animal biomass are broken down by decomposers into simpler substances.
decomposer		An organism that feeds on dead material, causing decay.
faeces	<i>fee-sees</i>	Undigested food that forms a waste material.
fossil fuel		A fuel formed from the dead remains of organisms over millions of years, i.e. coal, oil and natural gas.

CB9i The nitrogen cycle

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
crop rotation		Where a different crop is planted in the same field each year in a 3- or 4-year cycle, such as potatoes, oats, beans and cabbages. This helps to control the build-up of soil pests for each crop.
manure	<i>man-yure</i>	A mixture containing animal waste that is added to soil to improve its fertility.
nitrate		A compound that contains nitrogen in the form of a nitrate ion.
nitrogen cycle		A sequence of processes by which nitrogen moves from the atmosphere through living and dead organisms, into the soil and back to the atmosphere.
nitrogen-fixing bacteria		Bacteria that can take nitrogen from the atmosphere and convert it to more complex nitrogen compounds such as ammonia.