

Ecology

Ecology – study of the interactions between _____ and their _____.

Levels of Organization

- Species – one type = horse
- Population = all of one type living in a specific area
 - Ex. – all horses in a field
- Community –
 - all of the different organisms in an area
 - all grass, bugs, deer, birds, horses...in the field
- Ecosystem –
 - All living and nonliving parts of an environment
- Biome = large area
- Biosphere = all biomes (earth)

Other Interactions in Ecosystems

1. Mutualism – both organisms in the relationship benefit
 - Lichen – Algae and fungus
 - Algae makes sugar (photosynthesis)
 - Fungus keeps algae from drying out
 - Termites – microorganisms
 - Clown fish – anemone
2. Commensalism – one organism is helped the other is not helped or harmed
 - Barnacles & whales
 - Bromeliad & trees
 - Shark & remora
3. Parasitism
 - One organism benefits the other is harmed
 - Tapeworm & human
 - Heartworm & dogs & cats

Factors that shape ecosystems (4-2)

Biotic factors –

- living things that influence organisms in an ecosystem