



10 Important Principles of Ecology



- 1. Biotic Factors:** are the _____ or once-living organisms in the _____.
- 2. Abiotic Factors:** are nonliving, _____ features of the environment such as _____, sunlight, _____, temperature, and _____.
- 3. Limiting Factors:** Any _____ or abiotic factor that _____ the number of _____ in a population.
- 4. Habitat:** The _____ location where an organism _____.
- 5. Niche:** The _____ of an organism in the _____.
- 6. Food Chain/Web:** A food chain is a _____ way of showing how _____ in the form of food passes from one organism to another. They usually have _____ links, no more than 5 because energy is lost at each transfer. A food web is a series of _____ food chains, which provides a more _____ model for the way energy moves through a community, also more accurate because they show that many organisms feed on _____ _____ level of an ecosystem.
- 7. Levels of Biological Organization:**
 - _____ (a single individual from a population) →
 - _____ (all of the individuals of one species that live and reproduce in the same area at the same time) →
 - _____ (made up of populations of different species that interact in some way) →
 - _____ (consists of communities and the abiotic factors that affect them) →
 - _____ (highest level of biological organization, it is made up of all of the ecosystems on earth).
- 8. Succession:** The process of _____ change from one community of organisms to another.
- 9. Pioneer Communities:** The _____ community of organisms to move into a new environment.
- 10. Climax Communities:** When a community has reached the _____ stage of ecological succession.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

1. What is an ecosystem?
2. Class definition of an ecosystem:
3. What do you think of when you hear the word disturbance?

Disturbances	
Human	Natural

4. Are there any connections between the natural and human caused disturbance?

Food Web Questions:

5. Would removing the anchovies affect any other organisms? Explain your answer. What other organisms would be affected and how? Would the other populations of organisms increase or decrease when the anchovies are removed?

6. Are there any organisms that would not be affected by the removal of the anchovies? Why or why not? Explain your answer.