

SCIENCE · GRADES 4–5

Ecosystems Vocabulary

The language of the natural world

Key terms

1

Ecosystem

All the living things AND non-living things in a place, working together.

Example: A pond, a forest, a coral reef.

2

Habitat

The natural home of an animal or plant.

Example: A pond is the habitat of frogs.

3

Population

All the members of one species in an area.

Example: All the rabbits in a forest.

4

Community

All the different species that live together in an area.

Example: Rabbits, foxes, owls and trees in a forest.

5

Biotic

The LIVING parts of an ecosystem.

Example: Plants, animals, fungi, bacteria.

6

Abiotic

The NON-LIVING parts of an ecosystem.

Example: Air, water, rocks, sunlight, temperature.



7

Producer

Makes its own food. The base of every food chain.

Example: Plants, algae.

8

Consumer

Eats other living things.

Example: Animals.

9

Decomposer

Breaks down dead plants and animals.

Example: Worms, fungi.

10

Biodiversity

The variety of life in an ecosystem. More variety = a healthier ecosystem.

Example: A rainforest has very high biodiversity.

