

ECOSYSTEM STRUCTURE

STRUCTURE OF ECOSYSTEMS

- ◉ Ecosystem = Highly organized & structured environment where all parts exist in balance
- ◉ Includes biotic and abiotic parts



BIOTIC VS. ABIOTIC PARTS

Biotic:

◉ All **living** parts of an ecosystem

- Plants
- Animals
- Microorganisms

Abiotic

◉ All **non-living** parts of an ecosystem

- Water
- Soil
- Air
- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Sunlight

BIOTIC VS. ABIOTIC PARTS

List as many of each you can see below:



ORGANISM

- ◉ An individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form



SPECIES



- ◉ A group of organisms consisting of similar individuals (appearance, habitat, role within ecosystem, etc.)
- ◉ **MUST** be capable of breeding
 - Produce offspring that can also breed
 - NOT able to breed with other species
- ◉ Endangered Species: So very small in number that they are at risk of extinction

POPULATION

- ◉ All organisms of a species in a specific region at a certain time



COMMUNITY

- ◉ All populations in a specific region at a certain time



ECOSYSTEM

- ◉ Complex set of relationships among all biotic and abiotic parts



BIOME

- ◉ Complex community defined by plant and animal species, maintained under climatic conditions of region



BIOSPHERE

- ◉ Global sum of all ecosystems
 - Includes atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere



