

Ecology on the Web

You will be learning more about ecology by using the Internet to explore different topics. The following website will provide adequate information and should be thoroughly searched. <http://regentsprep.org/Regents/biology/units/ecology/index.cfm> Visit all the links on the left of the home page and complete the corresponding questions below.

1. Define an abiotic factor. List seven abiotic factors that influence the environment.
2. What is carrying capacity?
3. Does the earth have a certain carrying capacity for the human population?
Do you think that carrying capacity will even be reached?
4. Identify another name for each of the following on the food chain. Define each of the words you identify.

Producer	_____	Definition:
Primary consumer	_____	Definition:
Secondary consumer	_____	Definition:

What is the term used to describe an organism that functions as both a primary and secondary consumer?
5. Diagram an example of a food chain below. Do not use the example given on the website. Include four different organisms.

6. How are food chains different from food webs?
7. What two cycles of materials are important to the health of our environment?
8. What relationship do a predator and prey have?
9. How do scavengers and decomposers aid in the cycles of nature?

List an example of both an organism that acts as a scavenger and one that is a decomposer.

10. Identify and describe the three types of symbiotic relationships.
11. Describe three reasons why biodiversity is important for the environment.
12. Draw a series of pictures showing ecological succession of a forest.
13. Would the New York State forest succession be similar to what would be expected to occur in a Pennsylvania forest? Why?

Take the quizzes found on the website.