**Unit 7: Ecosystems**

* Limiting Factor- Anything that limits the growth and production of a population.
* Carbon Cycle- In photosynthesis, the hydrogen is combined with carbon atoms forming carbohydrates, while releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Organisms may eat the plant and consume the carbohydrates or breath the carbondioxide in exchange for oxygen. The carbon dioxide is absorbed by the plants and the cycle starts over again.
* Biodiversity- Variety of life forms; biodiversity also indicated whether an ecosystem is healthy or not.
* Biotic- Living things or WAS once living.
* Abiotic- things that are non living or was never living
* Parasitism- A type of symbiosis in which one organism is hurt while the other is helped.( for ex. a tick and a dog)
* Biosphere- All the ecosystems in the world.
* cooperation- A helpful interaction between organisms where organisms help each other survive.
* coexist- situation where two or more organisms share the same habitat but have a different niche.
* symbiosis- A type of relationship between organisms where atleast one is helped.
* mutualism- A type of symbiosis in which both organisms are helped. ( bee and flower)
* competition- it is when 2 organisms fight over the same resource; this is caused when 2 organisms have the same niche.
* predator/prey- its where the predator( the hunter) catches and eats the prey( the hunted)
* commensalism- a type of symbiosis in which one organism is helped while the other is neither helped nor harmed( for ex. bird and tree)
* population density- the # of individuals in a certain space at a given time.
* carrying capacity- the maximum amount of individuals an ecosystem can hold.
* nitrogen cycle- free nitrogen is absorbed from nitrogen fixing bacteria. the bacteria fix the “free” nitrogen and the plants absorb the fixed nitrogen. Then, other organisms eat the plant and consume the nitrogen and the nitrogen is released when the organism dies or through its waste.
* niche- what an organism does for living( for ex. a lions niche is to kills and eat other animals)
* oxygen cycle- During photosynthesis, oxygen is released in exchange for carbon dioxide. Other organisms breath in breath in oxygen and also breath out water vapor which is then again absorbed by the plants and the cycle starts all over again!
* community- All the living things in an ecosystem.
* habitat- the place where an organism lives and gets food and water from ( for ex. a human’s habitat is a house)
* ecosystem- A group of things that live and work together.
* population- many organisms of the same species( for ex. many snakes)
* Density dependent- Only affect highly dense populations( disease, predator,etc)
* Density independent - Affects all populations no matter what the density is( for ex. floods, tornadoes, or any natural causes)