

What is competitive exclusion?	Strong competition between species for a limited resource; this eventually leads to the modification or exclusion of one of the species. This takes place because one species uses resources more effectively than another, and therefore reproduces more rapidly—and therefore uses more of the resource.
What is a niche? Fundamental vs. realized	A species's ecological niche is the biotic and abiotic resources that it uses; all of the qualities of the species and its distinct place in the world. A species's fundamental niche is the niche that it can occupy potentially; its realized niche is the niche it actually occupies. Sometimes, they are the same; sometimes, the realized niche is smaller than the fundamental one because of competition.
What is resource partitioning?	When a species niche is modified due to competition with another species having the same niche. This happens because the competition excludes it from the resource they are competing for, so traits that allow the species to survive in a different niche are selected.
What is character displacement?	The tendency for two closely related species living in the same geographic area to develop differences in morphology and resource use.
How is predation a +/- relationship?	The predator gets a benefit—it eats the prey—but the prey dies.
What is cryptic coloration?	Camouflage.
What is aposematic coloration?	Bright coloration, used by animals with chemical defenses. Predators learn to be wary of brightly colored animals.
What is Batesian mimicry?	A harmless species mimics a dangerous one; predators are wary of it because they think it is harmful.
What is Mullerian mimicry?	Two unpalatable species mimic each other. This helps them both by increasing their numbers in the eyes of predators (since they look alike) so predators learn to avoid them more quickly.
What is parasitism?	A <i>symbiotic relationship</i> (two different species living in direct contact) that is +/-; it involves a parasite deriving nourishment from a host, and the host is harmed in the process. Parasites usually feed on hosts or lay their eggs on them (so the larvae can feed on the hosts).
What is mutualism?	A symbiotic relationship that is +/+; both species derive a benefit.
What is commensalism?	A symbiotic relationship that is +/-0; one species is benefited and the other is unaffected.
What is species diversity?	The variety of organisms that make up a community. It involves <i>species richness</i> , the number of different species, as well as <i>relative abundance</i> , the proportions of the different species.
What are the trophic levels on land or sea?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land: producers (plants), herbivores, carnivores, top carnivores</li> <li>• Sea: producers (phytoplankton), consumers (zooplankton), carnivores (fish), top carnivores (bigger fish)</li> </ul>
What is the difference between food chains and webs?	Food chains show relationships between trophic levels; each species fits into one. However, species tend to feed at more than one trophic level. Food webs show this “truer” type of feeding structure.

What is a dominant species?	The species that is most abundant or that has the highest biomass. It exerts control over other species, in terms of abiotic and biotic factors.
What is a keystone species?	A species that regulates community structure in some way; by doing this it increases diversity.
What is a disturbance?	<p>A cataclysmic event (storm, fire, flood, drought, human activity, overuse of some type) that changes a community, alters resource levels, and removes organisms.</p> <p>Frequent and moderate disturbances help the community by fostering diversity, rejuvenating the environment, releasing nutrients, and creating new habitats; however, high levels or intense disturbances exceed the tolerance of many species, eliminating them and hampering the growth of others.</p> <p>Some species, <i>fire climax species</i>, actually need fire to reproduce and rely upon this type of disturbance.</p>
What is succession?	<p>The succession of groups of species that re-populate an area after a disturbance has removed biota. It can take years, even decades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first species are “pioneer species”. They are r-selected and tolerant of harsh conditions.</li> <li>• Later species out-compete the pioneers.</li> </ul>
What is primary succession?	This begins in a lifeless area without soil. Bacteria and lichens/mosses make the soil. However, once that is done, they are usually overgrown and excluded by grasses, shrubs, and trees which all improve the soil.
What is secondary succession?	This begins with the soil intact. Seeds of herbaceous species which are present, released in the disturbance, or blown in begin to re-populate the area. They are eventually overcome by trees.
What is the climax forest?	An extremely favorable and stable ecosystem dominated by trees; it remains until disturbed.