

Must Remember

- An ecosystem is the name given to an area where plants and animals live, ecosystems can be very small or very big.
- The organisms in an ecosystem are termed a community, the organisms in a community live in habitats.
- A niche is a particular place or role an organism has in an ecosystem.
- A biotic factor is a living factor that can affect a community, an abiotic factor is a non-living factor that can affect a community.
- Scientists use sampling to study an ecosystem, a sample is the study of a proportion of a population as the entire population would be too big.
- A food chain is a diagram that shows what organisms eat, the arrows in a food chain show energy transfer.
- A food web is a collection of food chains that are linked together.
- Prey organisms are eaten by other organisms (predators).
- Interdependence is the term given to organisms that depend on each other.
- A population is the number of organisms within a species.
- A population can be affected by human activity



Maritime Futures – Loss of Marine Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the term given to describe the range of different organisms that live in an ecosystem. Marine ecosystems can be damaged by pollution, this includes plastic pollution where waste is placed in the ocean, and by oil spills. Plastic and oil can kill aquatic life. Overfishing can also cause a loss of biodiversity as many different fish species are caught that are not wanted, additionally, overfishing reduces food sources for other fish meaning it can affect the food chain.

Further Study

[BBC Bitesize – Food chains and webs](#)

Nice to know that...

- Bioaccumulation is the process where smaller organisms consume a toxin, the concentration of toxin increases through the food chain as organisms higher up the food chain in many smaller organisms that have consumed the toxin
- Producers make their own food, consumers have to eat other organisms to gain energy.

Key Terms

- **Abiotic:** Non-living factor.
- **Bioaccumulation:** The build up of toxic chemicals inside organisms in a food chain.
- **Biotic:** Living factor.
- **Co-exist:** Plants and animals living in the same habitat at the same time.
- **Community:** The collection of the different types of organism present in an ecosystem.
- **Consumer:** Organisms that eat other organisms as food.
- **Ecosystem:** The name given to the interaction between plants, animals, and their habitat in a particular location.
- **Food chain:** A diagram that shows the transfer of energy between organisms.
- **Food web:** A diagram showing a set of linked food chains.
- **Habitat:** The area in which an organism lives.
- **Interdependence:** The way in which living organisms depend on each other to survive, grow, and reproduce.
- **Niche:** A particular place or role that an organism has in an ecosystem.
- **Population:** The number of plants or animals of the same type that live in the same area.
- **Predator:** An animal that eats other animals.
- **Prey:** An animal that is eaten by another animal.
- **Producer:** Organism that makes its own food using photosynthesis.
- **Sample:** A representation of a larger area or group.