

## What is Ecology?

• Ecology is the study of interactions between organisms and their environment.

### Biotic vs. Abiotic Factors

1. **Biosphere** - portion of the Earth \_\_\_\_\_ life

❖ Within the biosphere you have the following factors:

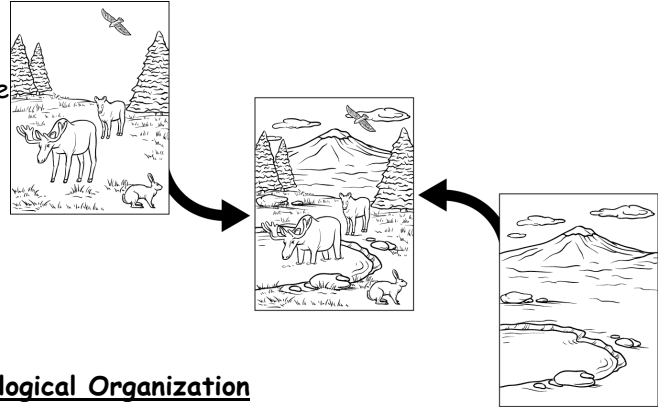
#### A. Biotic factors

1. All organisms \_\_\_\_\_ the environment
2. The " \_\_\_\_\_ " things in the environment!

#### B. Abiotic factors

1. " \_\_\_\_\_ " parts of the environment
2. Can determine which species will survive

\*EX: rainfall, temperature, light, soil



## Levels of Biological Organization

1. **Species:** Group of organisms that can breed and produce fertile offspring!

2. **Populations:**

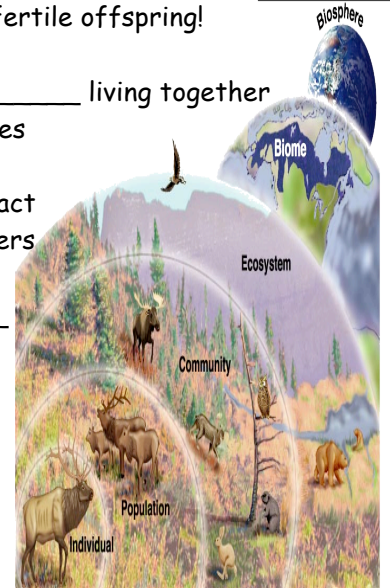
- a. A group of organisms of the \_\_\_\_\_ living together
- b. Must \_\_\_\_\_ for resources

3. **Community:**

- a. Several \_\_\_\_\_ that interact
- b. Changes in one population will cause changes in the others

4. **Ecosystem:**

- a. Interactions b/t populations and their \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 2 main types:
  1. **Terrestrial** - \_\_\_\_\_
  2. **Aquatic** - fresh or salt water



## Niche vs. Habitat

• **Niche:**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ an organism plays in the environment
- Its " \_\_\_\_\_ " in the community

• **Habitat** : \*Place where an organism \_\_\_\_\_

\* **Habitat** of the earthworm: \_\_\_\_\_

\* **Niche**: To aerate ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) the soil.



Summary: 4 sentences that summarized the lecture