

## Biology Definitions

- **Autotroph:** A living organism that makes its own complex organic matter from simple inorganic substances.
- **Heterotroph:** a living organism that obtains its nutrients by consuming complex organic matter it cannot make its own food. All animals and fungi are heterotrophs. Most bacteria are heterotrophs.
- **Excretion:** is the removal of the waste products of metabolism from the living organism.
- **Sensitivity:** the ability of an organism to detect changes in its external and internal environment and make adaptive alterations to its activities that enhance its chances of survival and reproduction.
- **Reproduction:** is the formation of a new living organism of the same species.
- **Movement:** the purposeful alteration of posture or position in response to a change in the internal or external environment of the organism.
- **Biological growth:** involves increase in cell size and increase in cell number.
- **A biochemical:** is an organic substance produced by a living organism and has an important role in a metabolism.
- **Ecology:** the study of the home of living organisms, their interactions with each other and their abiotic environments.
- **Habitat:** the place where an organism lives and to which it is adapted.
- **Population:** a group of individuals of the same species living and interbreeding in the same habitat
- **Ecosystem:** a self-sustaining community of an organism and their abiotic environment. There is a great diversity of ecosystems: grassland, freshwater pond, hedgerow, forest, sea shore, woodland.
- **Niche:** the role a species plays in the dynamic integrated ecosystem. A species' niche is a full description of how it is suited to the habitat, fits into the community and how it affects and is affected by abiotic and biotic factors. A species' niche includes where it lives, when it is active, what it feeds on, what feeds on it and its tolerance range for each abiotic factor.
- **Biosphere:** the part of the Earth including the atmosphere inhabited by living organisms.
- **Abiotic factors:** features of the non-living environment that influence the community.
- **Autotrophs:** organisms that can make their own food from inorganic sources.
- **Heterotrophs:** organisms that cannot make their own food.
- **Food chain:** a list of species each serving as a food source for the next species in the list; a specific pathway along which food (chemical energy) flows in the community.

- **Trophic:** level is the position of a species in a food chain is its trophic level.
- **Pyramid of numbers:** a modified bar chart showing the number of individuals at each trophic level of a specific food chain.
- **Food web:** A chart that shows the complex feeding relationships in a community.
- **Biotic factors:** influences of organisms on each other.
- **Competition:** the struggle between individuals of the same or different species for essential limited resources.
- **Predation:** the killing of one animal by another for food. A predator is an animal that hunts and kills another animal the prey for food.
- **Symbiosis:** individuals of two or more species living in close association with each other where there is a benefit and loss for at least one of the specie