

Appalachian Forest Ecology

Post Test

1. **Ecosystems** are places where living, non-living and once-living things interact. Examples are a forest, a lake, a river, a desert or a meadow.
2. The environment is made up of all the **non-living** things in an ecosystem. Some examples are air, water, rocks and soil.
3. **Once-living** things are organisms that have recently died.
4. **Organisms** and **living** things are the same thing. They must all breathe air, get energy and reproduce. Examples are a plant, an animal or bacteria.
5. A home or place where an organism is normally found is called its **habitat**. An animal will move away or fail to survive if its home does not have proper food, water, shelter and space.
6. The **population** of an organism is the number of organisms that live in a particular place.
7. A hawk or a bobcat is called a **predator** because it hunts for and eats other animals.
8. An animal that is hunted by another animal is called its **prey**.
9. **Adaptation** is the way in which an organism changes to better survive in its habitat.
10. All life in an ecosystem is **interconnected**, or dependent upon one-another for survival.
11. In a food chain, plants are called **producers** because they have the ability to use the sun's energy directly to produce their own food.
12. **Consumers** are organisms that eat other organisms to get energy. Examples are everything except plants.
13. In a food chain, bacteria and fungi are two examples of **decomposers**, since they eat dead organisms and return nutrients to the soil.
14. The web of life is the interconnection of all life forms through the **food chain**, or path that energy takes when one thing eats another thing.
15. **Biodiversity** is the variety of life forms in a place.

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environment
once-living

biodiversity
food chain
organisms

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ecosystem
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