**Succession & Organisms and their environments**

**Ecosystem**: A smaller part of the biosphere consisting of the organisms and

nonliving features that interact in an area

**Biodiversity**: The variety of organisms in an ecosystem

**Population:** Made up from all of the organisms in an ecosystem that belong to the same species

**Habitat**: The place in which an animal lives

**Biome**: Large geographic areas with similar climates and ecosystems (i.e., desert, tundra, etc.)

**Species**: A group composed of related individuals that usually resemble one another and have adapted to a particular set of resources within their environment.

**Sustainability:** The ability to tolerate. In ecology, the word describes how biological systems remain diverse, productive, and balanced over time.

**Abiotic -** Nonliving factors in the environment (i.e., light, temperature, water, atmospheric gases, wind, soil, and

**Biotic**: Organisms living or that had once lived in the environment (i.e., mouse, clover, dead tree)

**succession**: helps maintain a balance (or equilibrium) in an ecosystem

**Primary succession:** involves the growth of plant life in a newly developed area defined by rock and other minerals and either no or very little soil (NO SOIL) examples include: a newly formed volcanic island or when a glacier recedes

**Secondary succession**: involves the growth of plant life in an area that previously saw growth, but was destroyed for any reason (after a natural disaster) so still has soil

**Pioneer species:** The first Species to inhabit land which has not yet been settled, (such as a newly formed volcanic island or after a forest fire) examples: grasses, lichens or mosses, and wildflowers

**Microhabitat**: an extremely localized, or small scale environment such as a tree stump or a dead animal

**Stimulus**: something that prompts a change in an organism’s behavior

**Instinct**: inborn behavior pattern animal performs correctly the first time

**Migration**: the movement of a group of organisms from one place to another, usually due to a change in season

**Colonize:** to be the first to inhabit or settle into a new environment

**Adaptation**: is something a plant, animal or ecosystem has or does that helps it to survive in its environment, can be structural, behavioral, or physical

**Behavior adaptation**: functions of animals that help them survive

**Physical adaptation:** a body part that helps an animal or plant survive