ECOLOGY VOCABULARY

1. **Ecology**- the study of how living organisms interact with each other and their environment.

2. **Biotic**- living factors in the environment (plants, animals)

3. **Abiotic**-nonliving parts of the environment (water, air, temperature, soil, etc

4. **Organism**-a single living thing (plant, animal, bacterium, protist, or fungus)

5. **Population**-group of the same species living in the same area

6. **Community**- all populations that live in the same area and interact with each other

7. **Ecosystem**- a community of organisms and their environment

8. **Biosphere**- all ecosystems on earth

9. **Niches**- the job of an organism

10. **Producers**- organisms that use sunlight to make food (plants)

11. **Consumers**- organisms that eat other organisms

12. **Herbivore**- eats only plants (consumer)

13. **Carnivore**- eats only animals (consumer)

14. **0mnivore**- eats plants and animals (consumer)

15. **Scavenger-** eats dead organisms (consumer)

16. **Decomposers**- get energy by breaking down dead organisms

17. **Bacteria**-tiny one celled decomposer

18. **Fungi**-multicellular decomposer (Molds, mildews. yeasts. mushrooms, and puffballs)

19. **Food chain**- diagram of energy flow from one organism to another (simple)

20. **Food web**- diagram showing feeding relationships in an ecosystem

21. **Energy pyramid**- diagram that shows energy loss in an environment

22. **Limiting factors**- a resource that is so scarce that it limits the size of a

population [food, water in a desert, space]

23. **Carrying capacity**- the largest population that an environment can support

24. **Competition**- when 2 or more organisms try to use the same resource.

25. **Predator**-the eater (carnivore)

26. **Prey**-the victim

27. **Symbiosis-** a close long term association between 2 or more species

28. **Mutualism**- both organisms benefit (good)

29. **Commensalism**- one organism benefits and the other is unaffected

30. **Parasitism**- one organism benefits and the other is harmed

31. **Parasite**-the invader

32. **Host**-the victim of the parasite

33. **Evolution**-the change in a species over time

34. **Biodiversity**-the great variety of life forms on the planet

35. **Territory**-the "property" of an organism

36. **Natural balance**-the idea that producers, consumers and decomposers

live in an equal and harmonious state

37. **Dependence**- reliance on another organism for survival

38. **Detrimental**- bad effect

39. **Beneficial-** good effect