

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ecology Reading Guide

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1. What is ecology?
2. Distinguish between a habitat, a community, and an ecosystem.
3. What is an ecosystem? Give an example of an ecosystem and describe its components
4. Distinguish between primary and secondary succession and give an example of each.
5. During successions, what types of organisms are going to be the first to inhabit the new habitat? Why?
6. Where do producers get their energy?
7. Where do consumers get their energy?
8. Define and give an example of the four kinds of consumers.
  - Herbivore
  - Carnivor
  - Omnivore
  - Detrivore
9. What is a decomposer and what is an example of a decomposer?

10. Distinguish between a food web and a food chain.

11. Why do ecosystems usually not contain more than four trophic levels?

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12. What is meant by a biogeochemical cycle?

13. Trace a drop of water that is inside a plant through the state changes and location changes that occur and return water to plants.

14. Trace carbon that you exhale as CO<sub>2</sub> gas through the processes and locations that result in you obtaining carbon again (where do you get your carbon?)

15. Identify the following processes in the nitrogen cycle:

--Assimilation

--Ammonification

--Nitrification

--Denitrification