Unit 7 Vocab – Ecosystems

**ecosystem –** a community of living things and the communities’ physical environment

**environment –** all of the living and nonliving things surrounding an organism

**population –** all the individuals of the same kind living in the same ecosystem

**community –** all the populations of organisms living together in an environment

**producer -**  a living thing, such as a plant, that can make its own food

**consumer -**  a living thing that can’t make its own food and must eat other living things

**herbivore -**  an animal that eats only plants, or producers

**carnivore –** an animal that eats only other animals

**omnivore –** an animal that eats both plants and other animals

**decomposer –** a living thing that feeds on the wastes of plants and animals

**habitat -**  an environment that meets the needs of an organism

**niche -**  the role of an organism in it’s habitat

**food chain –** a series of organisms that depend on one another for food

**prey –** consumers that are eaten by predators

**predator –** a consumer that eats prey

**food web –** a group of food chains that overlap

**energy pyramid –** a diagram showing how much energy is passed from one organism to the next in a food chain

**biotic –** describes a living part of an ecosystem

**abiotic –** describes a nonliving part of an ecosystem

**adaptation –** a body part or behavior that helps an organism survive

**camouflage –** a color or shape that helps an animal hide

**instinct –** a behavior that an animal begins life with and that helps it meet its needs

**hibernation –** a dormant, inactive state in which normal body activities slow

**migration –** the movement of animals from one region to another and back

**extinction –** the death of all the members of a certain group of organisms

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