***Ecology***

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Ecology** is the \_\_study of how living things interact with their environment\_\_

2. A **population** is a group of the \_\_same species\_\_in a defined area. A species is one “specific” organism.

3. A **community** includes \_\_all the organisms\_\_ of all types (including plants) living in the same area.

4. An **Ecosystem** is ALL the \_\_organisms\_\_ and their nonliving environment.

Give me an example of “nonliving environment” \_\_\_water\_\_.

5. **Biotic** Factors - \_\_living parts of an ecosystem\_\_

Includes: Food, predators, and organisms in the soil.

producers

decomposers

consumers

6. **Abiotic** Factors: The \_\_nonliving parts of an ecosystem\_\_

Such as water, sunlight, temperature, soil (the minerals within), and oxygen.

7. What makes a **population** grow or shrink?

\_\_death and/or birth, immigration and/or emigration\_\_

8. The **Carrying Capacity** is the largest \_\_population an area can support\_\_.

9. **Limiting Factors** (things that limit the size of a population).

\_\_food, water, habitat are the big three. Also includes smaller factors like disease/parasites, accidents, natural factors (fires, floods, storms, etc), hunting, predation, and encroachment\_\_

10. **Population Density**: \_\_The number of individuals in an area of specific size.\_\_