

## Grade 9 Science – Biology Lesson 2

# Ecology Definitions

Term	Definition
Abiotic Factor	NON-LIVING environmental factors such as wind, heat, light and soil
Biodiversity	The VARIETY of different species in an area
Biotic Factor	LIVING ORGANISMS that interact with other living organisms in an ecosystem (e.g., organisms compete for resources, predators and prey)
Biogeography	Study of the distribution of plants and animals
Carnivore	Organism that eats MEAT
Community	All the populations of DIFFERENT organisms in an area
Food Chain	Simply, straight-line chain that shows the flow of energy from the primary producers to the top predator
Food Web	All food chains connected to show all relationships between organisms
Herbivore	Organism that eats PLANTS
Inorganic Substance	Substances that DO NOT contain a combination of carbon AND hydrogen
Omnivore	Organism that consumes both plants AND animals
Organic Substance	Substances that ALWAYS contain carbon AND hydrogen
Population	All the species of ONE organism in an area
Primary Consumer	Organism that cannot make its own food; rather it consumes the Producer.
Producer	Organism that is capable of making its own energy (e.g., tree, grass)
Secondary Consumer	Organisms that rely on and typically consume the Primary Producers as an energy source