8 Communities and ecosystems – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	**Write it 3 times** (English)		
community			
competition			
predation			
symbiosis			
Biodiversity			
keystone species			

Recall

In Part A you followed energy through an ecosystem. Now look at how species live together:

- Animals compete for food and space, hunt each other, and sometimes help each other.
- A variety of living things makes an ecosystem healthier.
- Human activity can damage ecosystems.

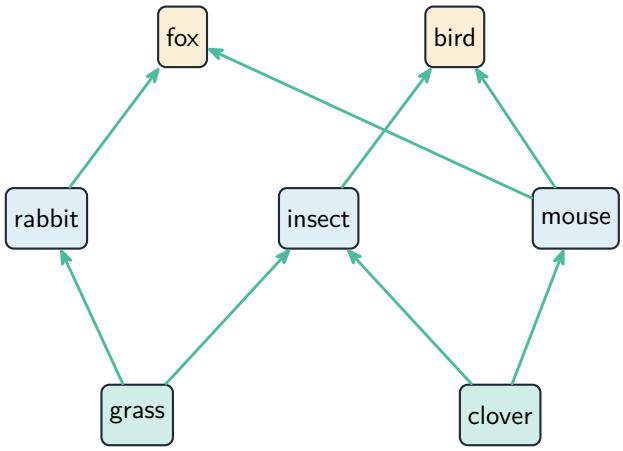
Each idea has a short worked example before the Practice.

New ideas

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1 Community interactions

A **community** is all the species living together in an area. They interact by:



- **competition** – for shared food, water, or space,
- **predation** – one animal hunting another,
- **symbiosis** – living closely together (both may benefit, or one may harm the other).

2 Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of living things – genes, species, and habitats. Higher biodiversity usually makes an ecosystem more able to recover from disturbance.



3 Keystone species

A **keystone species** has an outsized effect on its community – removing it can cause the whole system to collapse.

4 Human impact

Human actions – habitat loss, pollution, over-hunting, and climate change – reduce biodiversity and disturb ecosystems, and because species are linked, a change to one can ripple through many.

Watch out: because species are connected in a food web, harming one species (es-

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pecially a keystone species) can affect many others – not just that one.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

2.1 Name three ways species in a community interact. [3]

2.2 State what biodiversity means. [2]

2.3 Explain why higher biodiversity usually makes an ecosystem more resilient. [2]

2.4 State what a keystone species is. [2]

2.5 Give two ways human activity can reduce biodiversity. [2]

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