7 · Ecology

AQA · GCSE · Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
ecosystem /ˈiːkəʊsɪstəm/	A pond is an **ecosystem**.
community /kəˈmjuːnɪti/	All the plants and animals in a pond form a **community**.
population /ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃn/	All the rabbits in a field form a **population**.
species /ˈspiːsiːz/	Lions and tigers are different **species**.
competition /ˌkɒmpəˈtɪʃn/	Two plants are in **competition** for light.
territory	Robins defend a **territory** against other robins.
predator /ˈpredətə/	The fox is a **predator** of rabbits.
prey	Rabbits are **prey** for foxes and hawks.
interdependence /ˌɪntədɪˈpendəns/	**Interdependence** links flowers with animals that pollinate them.
pollinate	Bees **pollinate** apple flowers.
abiotic factor /ˌæbɪˈɒtɪk ˈfæktə/	Soil temperature is an **abiotic factor** affecting seed germination.
biotic factor /baɪˈɒtɪk ˈfæktə/	Disease is a **biotic factor** that can affect population size.
pathogens /ˈpæθədʒnz/	Bacteria and viruses can be **pathogens**.

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adaptation /ˌædæpˈteɪʃn/	A thick insulating coat is an **adaptation** to cold conditions.
migration /maɪˈgreɪʃn/	Birds fly south in their winter **migration**.
extremophile /ekˈstremәfaɪl/	An **extremophile** can live in conditions unsuitable for most organisms.
food chains /fuːd tʃeɪnz/	Poison can build up along **food chains**.
producer /prəˈdjuːsə/	Grass is a **producer**.
biomass /ˌbaɪəʊˈmæs/	The **biomass** of the grass is greater than the biomass of the rabbits.
primary consumer /ˈpraɪməri kənˈsuːmə/	A caterpillar eating leaves acts as a **primary consumer**.
secondary consumer /ˈsekəndəri kənˈsuːmə/	A bird eating that caterpillar is a **secondary consumer**.
quadrat /ˈkwɒdræt/	Count the daisies inside the **quadrat**.
transect /trænˈsekt/	We put quadrats along a **transect** from the shore to the woods.
evaporation /ɪˌvæpəˈreɪʃn/	**Evaporation** dries wet clothes.
transpiration /trænspəˈreɪʃn/	**Transpiration** is the loss of water from leaves.
condensation /kɒndenˈseɪʃn/	**Condensation** forms water droplets as moist air cools.
precipitation /prɪˌsɪpɪˈteɪʃn/	**Precipitation** includes rain and snow.

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stomata /ˈstəʊmətə/	Gases enter the leaf through the **stomata**.
decomposition /ˌdiːkɒmpəˈzɪʃn/	**Decomposition** helps return nutrients from dead material to the environment.
compost	Garden waste decays to make **compost**.
tangent /ˈtændʒənt/	Draw a **tangent** to the curve to find the gradient at one point.
biodiversity /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsɪti/	A rainforest has high **biodiversity**.
pollution /pəˈluːʃn/	Smoke from factories causes **pollution**.
sewage /ˈsuːɪdʒ/	**Sewage** in rivers kills fish.
fertiliser /ˈfɜːtəlaɪzə/	Farmers add **fertiliser** to help crops grow.
landfill /ˈlændfɪl/	Recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to **landfill**.
deforestation /diːˌfɒrɪˈsteɪʃn/	**Deforestation** destroys the homes of many animals.
peat /piːt/	**Peat** is partly rotted plant material.
methane /ˈmiːθeɪn/	Cows give off **methane**.
greenhouse gases /ˈgriːnhaʊs ˈgæsɪz/	Carbon dioxide and methane are **greenhouse gases**.
global warming /ˈgləʊbl ˈwɔːmɪŋ/	**Global warming** is the rise in the Earth's average temperature.
extinction /ekˈstɪŋkʃn/	Dinosaurs suffered **extinction** long ago.

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breeding programmes	Zoo **breeding programmes** help save endangered species.
endangered species /enˈdeɪndʒəd ˈspiːsiːz/	The giant panda was an **endangered species**.
field margins	Wild flowers in **field margins** feed insects.
hedgerows	**Hedgerows** give birds nesting sites between fields.
trophic levels /ˈtrəʊfɪk ˈlevlz/	Energy is lost at each of the **trophic levels**.
herbivores	Thorns protect plants from **herbivores**.
carnivores	Foxes are **carnivores** that eat herbivores.
tertiary consumer /ˈtɜːʃəri kənˈsuːmə/	A **tertiary consumer** eats animals that are secondary consumers.
apex predators	Sharks and eagles are **apex predators**: nothing eats them.
pyramid of biomass	A **pyramid of biomass** shows the mass of living things at each level.
faeces /ˈfiːsiːz/	**Faeces** contain undigested food.
food security /fuːd sɪˈkjʊərɪti/	Everyone having enough healthy food means **food security**.
mesh /meʃ/	A larger net **mesh** lets young fish escape.
fishing quotas	**Fishing quotas** limit how many fish can be caught.

Word	Example
Fusarium	Mycoprotein is made from the fungus **Fusarium**.
mycoprotein /ˈmaɪkəprəʊtiːn/	**Mycoprotein** is a protein-rich food made from fungal biomass.
GM crops /ˌdʒiːˈem krɒps/	**GM crops** can be made resistant to pests.

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