Ecology and the environment

Pearson Edexcel · International GCSE · Biology · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
population /ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃn/	All the rabbits in a field form a **population**.
community /kəˈmjuːnɪti/	All the plants and animals in a pond form a **community**.
habitat /ˈhæbɪtæt/	A pond is the **habitat** of frogs.
ecosystem /ˈiːkəʊsɪstəm/	A pond is an **ecosystem**.
abiotic /ˌæbɪˈɒtɪk/	Light intensity is an **abiotic** factor affecting plant distribution.
biotic /baɪˈɒtɪk/	Predation is a **biotic** factor affecting population size.
producer /prəˈdjuːsə/	Grass is a **producer**.
primary consumer /ˈpraɪmərɪ kənˈsuːmə/	A caterpillar eating leaves acts as a **primary consumer**.
decomposer /ˌdiːkəmˈpəʊzə/	A fungus is a **decomposer**.
respiration /ˌrespɪˈreɪʃn/	**Respiration** releases energy that cells use to stay alive.
decomposition /ˌdiːkɒmpəˈzɪʃn/	**Decomposition** breaks a big problem into small parts.
combustion /kəmˈbʌstʃn/	**Combustion** of petrol powers a car.
greenhouse gas /ˈgriːnhaʊs gæs/	Carbon dioxide is a **greenhouse gas**.

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eutrophication /ˌjuːtrəfɪˈkeɪʃn/	**Eutrophication** happens when fertiliser runs into a lake.
biodiversity /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsɪti/	A rainforest has high **biodiversity**.