

Ch 2 Overview: Principles of Ecology

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Section 2.1 – Organisms and Their Environment

1. What is ecology? (½ pt)
2. What do ecologists use? What may they ask? (1pt)
3. What is the biosphere? Where does it extend? (1pt)
4. What do ecologists study? (½ pt)
5. What are abiotic factors? Give examples. (1pt)
6. What are biotic factors? Give examples. (1pt)
7. What do all organisms depend on others for? (1 pt)
8. What is a population? Give an example. (1 pt)
9. What do members of the same population compete for? (½ pt)
10. What is a biological community? Give an example. (1 pt)

11. List the 5 levels of organization. (1 pt)

12. What is an ecosystem? Give an example. (1 pt)

13. What are the 2 major kinds of ecosystems? (½ pt)

14. What is the difference between a niche and a habitat? (1 pt)

15. Why are unique adaptations and structures important to a species' niche? (½ pt)

16. What is symbiosis? (½ pt)

17. What is mutualism? Give an example. (1 pt)

18. What is commensalism? Give an example. (1 pt)

19. What is parasitism? Give an example. (1 pt)

20. Why is it advantageous for a parasite to leave its host alive? (½ pt)

21. Why would Spanish moss that grows on and hangs from the limbs of trees be considered commensalism? (½ pt)

22. What would a tick be considered? Why? (1 pt)

Section 2.2 – Nutrition and Energy Flow

23. What is an autotroph? Give an example. (1 pt)
24. What is a heterotroph? Give an example. (1 pt)
25. What are the differences between an herbivore, carnivore, scavenger, and omnivore? (2 pts)
26. What is a decomposer? Give an example. (1 pt)
27. Describe the differences between a food chain and a food web. (1 pt)
28. What is a feeding step known as? (½ pt) _____
29. What do ecologists use food chains and food webs for? (½ pt)
30. What does each step in the energy pyramid represent? How much energy is available to be passed on to the next level? (1 pt)
31. What is biomass? (½ pt)

32. What are the 4 basic cycles in nature? (2 pts)

33. How important is carbon? (½ pt)

34. What is nitrogen basically used for? (½ pt)

35. What is phosphorus used for? (½ pt)