**Ecology**

**Ecology:** The study of the various interactions between organisms and their environment.

**Ecosystem:** A community of organisms and their interactions with each other and with their non-living environment/ Organisms and their interactions with their environment.

**Biosphere**: The part of the earth that supports life.

**Habitat:** The place where a particular organism lives.

**Abiotic factors:** The non-living components of an ecosystem.

**Biotic factors:**  The living components of an ecosystem.

**Climatic factors:** Aspects of the weather that influence an ecosystem.

**Edaphic factors:** Aspects of the soil that influence an ecosystem.

**Food chain**: The pathway along which energy is transferred in an ecosystem

**Food web:** A series of interconnected food chains

**Niche:** The functional role of an organism in an ecosystem, i.e. how it feeds, what it eats, who eats it etc.

**Nutrient recycling:** The continual reuse and reprocessing in nature of the raw materials required by living organisms.

**Pollution:** Any harmful addition to the environment due to human activity.

**Conservation:** The wise use and management of the environment and its resources/ management of the environment.

**Competition:** The struggle for resources that are in limited supply.

**Contest competition**: One organism loses the resource

**Scramble competition:** each organism gets some of the resource

**Predation:**  An interaction between two organisms where one animal (the predator) kills and eats another animal (the prey).

**Predator:** An organism that eats another animal

**Pyramid of numbers**: based on numbers of organisms at each trophic level/ Shows numbers of different organisms in a food chain

**Population:** A group of organisms of a single species living in a particular area at a given time.

**Saprophyte:** Lives on dead organisms

**Symbiosis:** A relationship between two species in which at least one of the species benefits.

**Parasitism:** A relationship in which one organism lives in or on another living organism of a different species, causing it harm. Parasite: lives in or on another organism causing harm

**Qualitative Survey:** A study to find out the type(s) of organism that exist in an ecosystem.

**Quantitative Survey:**  A study to find out the number of organism that exist in an ecosystem.

**Trophic level**: feeding level/energy level or position in a food chain

**Food chain**: The pathway along which energy is transferred in an ecosystem.

**Food Web:** A series of interconnected food chains.

**Mutualism:** Relationship between two organisms of different species where both benefit

**Commencialism:** Relationship between two organisms of different species where one benefits and the other is not harmed.