

INTERACTION IN AN ECOSYSTEM STUDY GUIDE

- ① We know that all the living (biotic) and nonliving (abiotic) things in an area interacting with each other is an ecosystem.
- ① Living things depend on nonliving things such as soil, water, sunlight, air, and rocks to survive. These abiotic factors in an ecosystem meet their basic needs for food, water and protection.
- ① A frog, human, and bear are some organisms that depends on air, an abiotic factor, in the ecosystem to breathe. We breathe in oxygen and release carbon dioxide. An earthworms depends on soil to survive. These are abiotic factors that living things need to survive.
- ① The living things in an ecosystem are interdependent. This means that living things depend on their interactions with each other for survival. For example, a tree depends on sunlight for energy and food. A snail depends on plants for food. Living things have to compete with other living things for food and shelter. Living things change their environment by building homes and looking for food.
- ① All parts of the food chain are important and depend on each other. Plants and animals depend on each other keep our entire system alive and well. Remove one species and small changes can throw off the entire food chain or ecosystem. Without proper balance, an ecosystem can collapse and cause the decline of all affected species. All parts of the food chain are vital and one missing species
- ① The rain forest is being cut down at a rapid pace. Many plants and animals are losing their habitat. This can cause some animals to become extinct. Extinction of various plants is a threat to humans mainly because of the loss of food and medicine. Also, the plants in the rain forest take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Therefore, you could say that there would be a reduction the amount of oxygen being produced.
- ① Some relationship in the ecosystem exists where one organism benefits and one is not harmed. For example, barnacles are small organisms that attach themselves to the skin of whales. The body of the whale provides them with a habitat and food. The survival of the whale remains unaffected. This is beneficial to the barnacles only.
- ① All living things will eventually die. When they die and decay, its matter returns to the soil and new living things are made from it. This happens through the process of decomposition.