

## Grade 8 Natural Science Worksheet

### Ecology terminology

#### Part One: Define the terms

Define each of the terms below:

1. Aquatic
2. Terrestrial
3. Ecosystem
4. Food chain
5. Food web
6. Biodiversity
7. Population
8. Habitat
9. Community
10. Biome

[20]

#### Part Two: Match the terms

Match up the terms in column B with the definitions in column A.

Column A	Column B
A group of individuals which breed together to produce more of their kind.	Photosynthesis
Organisms that are able to make their own food.	Abiotic
Rely on the support or existence of others.	Omnivore
Organisms that eat things.	Interdependent
The non-living aspects of an ecosystem.	Herbivores
Dead organisms and waste matter in an ecosystem.	Producers
The process whereby some organisms are able to make their own food.	Consumers
Animals that eat green plants.	Parasite
Animal that lives in or on another animal in a close feeding or reproductive relationship.	Species
Animal that eats both plant and other animal matter.	Detritus

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### Part Three: Complete the sentences

Complete the notes below by filling in the missing words.

\_\_\_\_\_ means living together in a close relationship where organisms rely on other \_\_\_\_\_ for their survival. \_\_\_\_\_ is a form of symbiosis where both organisms in the relationship benefit from the relationship. Oxpeckers are birds that climb about on the backs of giraffe and buffalo, eating the ticks off the animals. Oxpeckers therefore get their \_\_\_\_\_ from the browsing mammals, and the mammals benefit as the \_\_\_\_\_ that were sucking their blood are removed. Parasitism is another form of \_\_\_\_\_. In this relationship, one organism benefits, while the other is \_\_\_\_\_. The tick that was feeding on the giraffe is the parasite, while the giraffe is the host. The \_\_\_\_\_ is always harmed in a parasitic relationship. In \_\_\_\_\_, one organism benefits, but the other is neither harmed nor benefits. Remora fish attach themselves to sharks and “hitch” a ride, eating leftovers of food that the shark catches. The remora fish thus \_\_\_\_\_, but the shark is completely unaffected by the presence of the remora fish.

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### Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution																						
1	20	Aquatic – forms of life growing in or living in water. ✓✓ Terrestrial – life forms growing or living on land. ✓✓ Ecosystem – a natural system in which living and non-living things interact with each other. ✓✓ Food chain – a linear flow chart showing feeding relationships. ✓✓ Food web – a series of flow charts showing multiple food chains. ✓✓ Biodiversity – variety of organisms in an ecosystem. ✓✓ Population – a group of the same species living in a particular area. ✓✓ Habitat – places where organisms eat, live, find mates, etc. ✓✓ Community – a group of populations interacting in a particular area. ✓✓ Biome – a geographical area with characteristic climate and vegetation. ✓✓																						
2	20	<table><tr><th>Column A</th><th>Column B</th></tr><tr><td>A group of individuals which breed together to produce more of their kind.</td><td>Species</td></tr><tr><td>Organisms that are able to make their own food.</td><td>Producers</td></tr><tr><td>Rely on the support or existence of others.</td><td>Interdependent</td></tr><tr><td>Organisms that eat things.</td><td>Consumers</td></tr><tr><td>The non-living aspects of an ecosystem.</td><td>Abiotic</td></tr><tr><td>Dead organisms and waste matter in an ecosystem.</td><td>Detritus</td></tr><tr><td>The process whereby some organisms are able to make their own food.</td><td>Photosynthesis</td></tr><tr><td>Animals that eat green plants.</td><td>Herbivores</td></tr><tr><td>Animal that lives in or on another animal in a close feeding or reproductive relationship.</td><td>Parasite</td></tr><tr><td>Animal that eats both plant and other animal matter.</td><td>Omnivore</td></tr></table>	Column A	Column B	A group of individuals which breed together to produce more of their kind.	Species	Organisms that are able to make their own food.	Producers	Rely on the support or existence of others.	Interdependent	Organisms that eat things.	Consumers	The non-living aspects of an ecosystem.	Abiotic	Dead organisms and waste matter in an ecosystem.	Detritus	The process whereby some organisms are able to make their own food.	Photosynthesis	Animals that eat green plants.	Herbivores	Animal that lives in or on another animal in a close feeding or reproductive relationship.	Parasite	Animal that eats both plant and other animal matter.	Omnivore
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3	20	Symbiosis means living together in a close relationship where organisms rely on other organisms for their survival. Mutualism is a form of symbiosis where both organisms in the relationship benefit from the relationship. Oxpeckers are birds that climb about on the backs of giraffe and buffalo, eating the ticks off the animals. Oxpeckers therefore get their food from the browsing mammals, and the mammals benefit as the parasites that were sucking their blood are removed. Parasitism is another form of symbiosis. In this relationship, one organism benefits,																						

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		<p>while the other is harmed. The tick that was feeding on the giraffe is the parasite, while the giraffe is the host. The host is always harmed in a parasitic relationship. In commensalism, one organism benefits, but the other is neither harmed nor benefits. Remora fish attach themselves to sharks and “hitch” a ride, eating leftovers of food that the shark catches. The remora fish thus benefits, but the shark is completely unaffected by the presence of the remora fish.</p>
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