

exchange pool—a site where a nutrient sits for only a short period of time.

extinction—being extinct or the process of becoming extinct.

food chain—a succession of organisms in an ecological community that constitutes a continuation of food energy from one organism to another as each consumes a lower member and, in turn, is preyed upon by a higher member.

food web—a complex of interrelated food chains in an ecological community.

fundamental niche—the niche an organism would have if there were no competition.

Gause's Principle—states that no two species can occupy the same niche at the same time, and that the species that is less fit to live in the environment will either relocate, die out, or occupy a smaller niche.

Gross Primary Productivity—the amount of sugar that the plants produce in photosynthesis, and subtracting from it the amount of energy the plants need for growth, maintenance, repair, and reproduction.

habitat—the area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs.

habitat fragmentation—when the size of an organism's natural habitat is reduced, or when development occurs that isolates a habitat.

heterotroph—an organism that cannot synthesize its own food and is dependent on complex organic substances for nutrition.

indigenous species—species that originate and live, or occur naturally, in an area or environment.

interspecific competition—competition between different species.

intraspecific competition—competition that occurs between members of the same species.

invasive species—an introduced, nonnative species.

keystone species—a species whose very presence contributes to an ecosystem's diversity and whose extinction would consequently lead to the extinction of other forms of life.

Law of Conservation of Matter—states that matter can neither be created nor destroyed.

Law of the Minimum—states that living organisms will continue to live, consuming available materials until the supply of materials is exhausted.

Law of Tolerance—describes the degree to which living organisms are capable of tolerating changes in their environment.

mutualism—a symbiotic relationship in which both species benefit.