Ecology

Ecology is the scientific study of interactions among organisms and between organisms and their environment or surroundings.

An <u>ecologist</u> is a person who studies the interactions between organisms and the environment.

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7 Levels of Organization Studied by Ecologists

The levels of organization studied by ecologists are <u>organisms</u>, <u>species</u>, <u>populations</u>, <u>communities</u>, <u>ecosystems</u>, <u>biomes</u> and finally the biosphere.

- 7 Levels of organization
- 1) organism a single living thing
- 2) <u>species</u> group of organisms so <u>similar to one another</u> that they <u>can breed</u> and produce fertile offspring
- 3) population group of individuals that belong to the same species and live in the same area (Not a count of every single
 - ex) Human Populations is separate from Cow Population
- 4) <u>community</u> a <u>collection of different populations</u> that live together in a defined area
- 5) <u>ecosystem</u> a collection of all the organisms that live in a particular place together with their nonliving, or physical environment
 - 6) Biome Is a collection of animals and plants in an area
 - 7) Biosphere is all parts of and around the planet Earth where life can be found

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