

Ecosystems

Ecosystems



Cacti, rattlesnakes, and roadrunners live in some deserts. Tropical grasslands are home to baobab trees, rhinos, and elephants. Spruce trees, moose, and ermine live in the taiga. Deserts, grasslands, and the taiga belong to the **ecosphere**, the part of Earth in which all living things are found.

An **ecosystem** is all the living things in an area and the nonliving things on which they depend for life. So, oak trees and squirrels live in a forest ecosystem, and kelp and sea otters live in an ocean ecosystem. Earth's ecosystem has a wide variety of ecosystems. Each has its own collection of plants and animals. They are adapted to living in their environment. In particular, they are adapted to the climate.

Climate describes weather patterns that exist over long periods of time. Two factors help to determine an area's climate most.

They are average rainfall and average temperatures. Deserts usually receive less than ten inches of rain each year, and the rate of evaporation is far greater than the rate of precipitation. Rain may fall all at once instead of falling evenly throughout the year. Or, there may be no rain at all for several years. Skies are hot and dry, so large amounts of solar energy reach the ground. Summer daytime temperatures may reach more than 120°F. At night, the ground releases heat energy quickly, causing nighttime temperatures to drop dramatically. Organisms that live in the desert must be adapted to little water and extreme changes in temperatures.

What role does climate play in an ecosystem?

Our goal is to find out about the parts of the ecosystem and how these parts interact

Standards 7.2b, 7.1c, 7.2a

Read pages 254 255 256 and 257 of your textbook NY science - Grade 6 / Chapter 9 section 1



What is a population?

What is a community?

What is ecology?

What is a habitat?

What is the biosphere or ecosphere?

What is an organism?