**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ecology**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-The study of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that take place among organisms and their environment.

**Natural Selection**

* Natural selection- occurs when organisms with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ best suited to their environment are more likely to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and reproduce; and these traits are passed on to their offspring. In order to have natural selection, you must have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a species.
* Variation- Some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trait that makes an individual different from other members of the species.

**Limiting Factors**

* If that trait makes an organism better suited for its environment, it is called an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Limiting Factors- Anything that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the number of individuals living in a population.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - The non-living part of the environment.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- factors related to, caused by or produced by living organisms.

**Invasive Species**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- Organisms that are introduced to an area, survive, reproduce and cause either economic or ecological \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a habitat.

**Competition**

* Occurs when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or more organisms seek the same resource at the same time.
* Competition for food, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or other resources can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ population growth.
* Most intense: Among same species. They need the same food and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Takes place among other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also.

**Population Size**

* Ecologist study if populations are decreasing or increasing. This can help species that are in danger of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- The number of individuals of one species per a specific area.

**Measuring Population**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Sample counts: Ecologists estimate the size of a population by counting only a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the land. They take that percent and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it to find the estimate number for all the land.

**Limiting Factors**

* Anything that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the number of individuals in a population; includes nonliving and living.
* Availability of food, water, living space, or nesting sites can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ growth.
* Can affect the food \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Carrying Capacity**

* Largest number of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_of one species that an ecosystem can support over time.
* If the population begins to exceed the environments \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, some individuals will not have enough resources. They could die or have to migrate elsewhere.

**Biotic Potential**

* Biotic Potential: Highest rate of reproduction under \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conditions.

**Exponential Growth**

* When a species moves into a new area with plenty of food, living space, and other resources, the population \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ quickly.
* Over time it will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a carrying capacity.