



**Ecology Definitions
Junior Cert
Science**



Ecology Definitions and Examples JC



Ecology Definitions and Examples

Ecosystem: an area where a group of different plant and animal species live and their interactions with the environment. E.g. woodland

Habitat: Place where a plant or animal species lives e.g. Woodland

Adaptation: changes in structure or behavior in a species which help it to survive have big ears to help the hear predators coming, while primroses flower early to get enough light before the leaves come on the trees

Competition: Two or more organisms fighting for a resource that is in short supply e.g. two oak trees fighting for light or two deer fighting for a mate.

Dependence: One species needs another to survive e.g. Rabbits need grass to survive but grass does not need rabbits to survive

Interdependence: when two organisms need each other to survive
E.g. bees need flowers (primrose) for food and flowers need bees to pollinate them so they can produce new plants

Producers: make their own food by photosynthesis
E.g. grass, primroses and oak tree and are eaten by consumers called herbivores

Consumer: animal that gets its food from another organism

Primary Consumer: herbivores i.e. eat plants e.g. snails, rabbits,

Secondary Consumer: carnivores i.e. eat animals e.g. fox, thrush and Sparrow hawk

Decomposers: break down dead plants and animals for food e.g. fungi and bacteria return valuable nutrients back into the soil

Conservation: is the wise management of an ecosystem
e.g. not letting farmers pour silage effluent into a stream

Pollution: is any harmful addition to the environment E.g. Air Pollution from car exhausts pumping carbon monoxide into the air, and sulphur dioxide causing acid rain which can kill the trees in the woodland.

Waste Management: is the proper disposal of waste materials to prevent pollution

Reduce: the amount of packaging, or the amount of heating by turning down thermostats

Reuse: materials e.g. wood to help save the rainforests

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Recycle: metals such as aluminum to conserve raw materials

Food Chain: A list of organisms where one organism is eaten by the next in the list
e.g. oak leaf → caterpillar → sparrow → sparrow hawk

Food web: Two or more interconnected food chains e.g. oak leaf → caterpillar → sparrow → sparrow hawk

