

# Ecology Practice

Use each of the terms below just once to complete the passage.

ecology      biotic factors      nonliving      environments      atmosphere  
humans      organisms      soil      biosphere      abiotic factors

Living organisms in our world are connected to other **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ in a variety of ways. The branch of biology called **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ is the scientific study of interactions among organisms and their **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_, including relationships between living and **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ things.

All living things on Earth can be found in the **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_, the portion of Earth that supports life. It extends from high in the **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ to the bottom of the oceans. Many different environments can be found in the biosphere. All living organisms found in an environment are called **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_. Nonliving parts of an environment are called **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_. For example, whales, trees, and **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ are biotic factors. Ocean currents, temperature, and **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ are abiotic factors.

For each item in Column A, write the letter of the matching item in Column B.

## Column A

- \_\_\_\_\_ **11.** A group of organisms of one species that interbreed and live in the same place at the same time
- \_\_\_\_\_ **12.** A collection of interacting populations
- \_\_\_\_\_ **13.** Interactions among the populations and abiotic factors in a community
- \_\_\_\_\_ **14.** Occurs between organisms when resources are scarce
- \_\_\_\_\_ **15.** A terrestrial ecosystem

## Column B

- a.** community
- b.** competition
- c.** forest
- d.** population
- e.** ecosystem

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For each statement below, write **true** or **false**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **16.** A habitat is the role a species plays in a community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **17.** Habitats may change.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **18.** A niche is the place where an organism lives its life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **19.** A habitat can include only one niche.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **20.** A species' niche includes how the species meets its needs for food and shelter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **21.** The centipedes and worms that live under a certain log occupy the same habitat but have different niches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **22.** It is an advantage for two species to share the same niche.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **23.** Competition between two species is reduced when the species have different niches.