Ecology Vocabulary:

Abiotic factor – non-living things that affect life

Biotic factor – living thing that affects life

Niche – an organism’s job

Symbiosis – a relationship between organisms

Competition – the fight for resources

Predation – killing and eating

Scavenger – eating dead animals

Decomposer – breaking down dead organic matter for food

Carrying capacity – the limit of a population in a ecosystem

Exponential growth – fast, unending growth

Consumer – an organism that eats other organisms

Producer – an organism that makes its own food

Biomagnification – pollutants build up faster as they go up the food chain