

Food Webs

Investigation 1

Scientist's Glossary



Tool: Rehearsal

Rehearsal strategies include:

- saying the definition to yourself.
- being quizzed by someone else.
- drawing a diagram or picture from memory.
- looking for everyday examples of terms.
- using the terms to solve a problem.
- conducting experiments that use these terms.

1. **Biomass:** all of the living things in an ecosystem.
2. **Carnivore:** an animal that eats animals.
3. **Consumer:** a living thing that cannot make its own food and must therefore feed upon, or "consume," other living things.
4. **Ecosystem:** a community of living things and its non-living environment.
5. **Environment:** all of the living and non-living things that make up one's surroundings.
6. **Food Chain:** a straight-line diagram that shows which living things are eaten by others.
7. **Food Web:** a diagram that combines many different food chains to show all of the foods that living things eat.
8. **Herbivore:** a living thing that eats only plants.
9. **Omnivore:** a living thing that eats both plants and animals.
10. **Organism:** a living thing.
11. **Producer:** a living thing that makes its own food (a plant, for example).

Adaptations

Investigation 2

Scientist's Glossary



Tool: Rehearsal

1. **Adaptation:** a characteristic of an organism that helps it live in its environment.
2. **Ecosystem:** a community of organisms and its non-living environment.
3. **Environment:** all of the factors, both living and nonliving, that surround and affect an individual organism or biological community.
4. **Forest:** an area of land covered with a large number of trees and shrubs.
5. **Organism:** a living thing.
6. **Wetland:** an area of land that is often covered by water and has soil soaked with water.

Environmental Changes

Investigation 3

Scientist's Glossary

1. **Adaptation:** a pre-existing, genetic characteristic of an organism that helps it live in its environment
2. **Biomass:** the quantity of living matter in an ecosystem.
3. **Competition:** a situation that exists in nature when two or more different species require the same environmental resource (food, shelter, etc.) to survive.
4. **Extinct:** no longer living; describes a species that has completely died off.
5. **Fossil:** the remains or impressions of plants and animals which lived on the Earth in the past and are now preserved in rocks.
6. **Natural Selection:** the process in nature by which organisms that are best adapted to their environment tend to survive and reproduce while those less adapted tend to die off; also called "survival of the fittest."
7. **Paleontologist:** a scientist who uses fossils to study organisms that lived in ancient times.

Environmental Pollutants

Investigation 4

Scientist's Glossary

1. **Air Pollution:** addition of harmful particles and gases into the air.
2. **Ecosystems:** a community of living things and its non-living environment.
3. **Interdependence:** a term that describes how changes in one aspect of the environment can cause changes in another aspect of the environment; a relationship in which plants and animals depend on one another for survival.
4. **Land Pollution:** addition of harmful materials into the soil.
5. **Pollutant:** any harmful material released into the environment. Some pollutants may be compounds that are naturally found in the environment (e.g. carbon dioxide gas), but are released in excess amounts.
6. **Pollution:** general term for the addition of harmful compounds or materials into the environment. Includes air, land, and water pollution.
7. **Water Pollution:** release of harmful compounds into water. This includes ground water.

Interactions in Nature

Investigation 5

Scientist's Glossary

1. **Competition:** a situation that exists in nature when two or more different species require the same environmental resource (food, shelter, etc.) to survive.
2. **Ecosystem:** a community of living things and its non-living environment.
3. **Environment:** the world around us and all of its parts, including physical surroundings, weather, plants, and animals.
4. **Food chain:** a straight-line diagram that represents which organisms are eaten by others in an ecosystem.
5. **Food web:** a complex interaction between organisms caused in an ecosystem when food chains overlap.
6. **Natural Selection:** the process in nature by which organisms that are best adapted to their environment tend to survive and reproduce while those less adapted tend to die off; also called "survival of the fittest"
7. **Organism:** a living thing.
8. **Pollutant:** any harmful material released into the environment. Some pollutants may be compounds that are naturally found in the environment (e.g. carbon dioxide gas), but are released in excess amounts.
9. **Pollution:** general term for the addition of harmful compounds or materials into the environment. Includes air, land, and water pollution.