

Module 11: Ecology
Topic 1 Content: Ecological Organization Notes

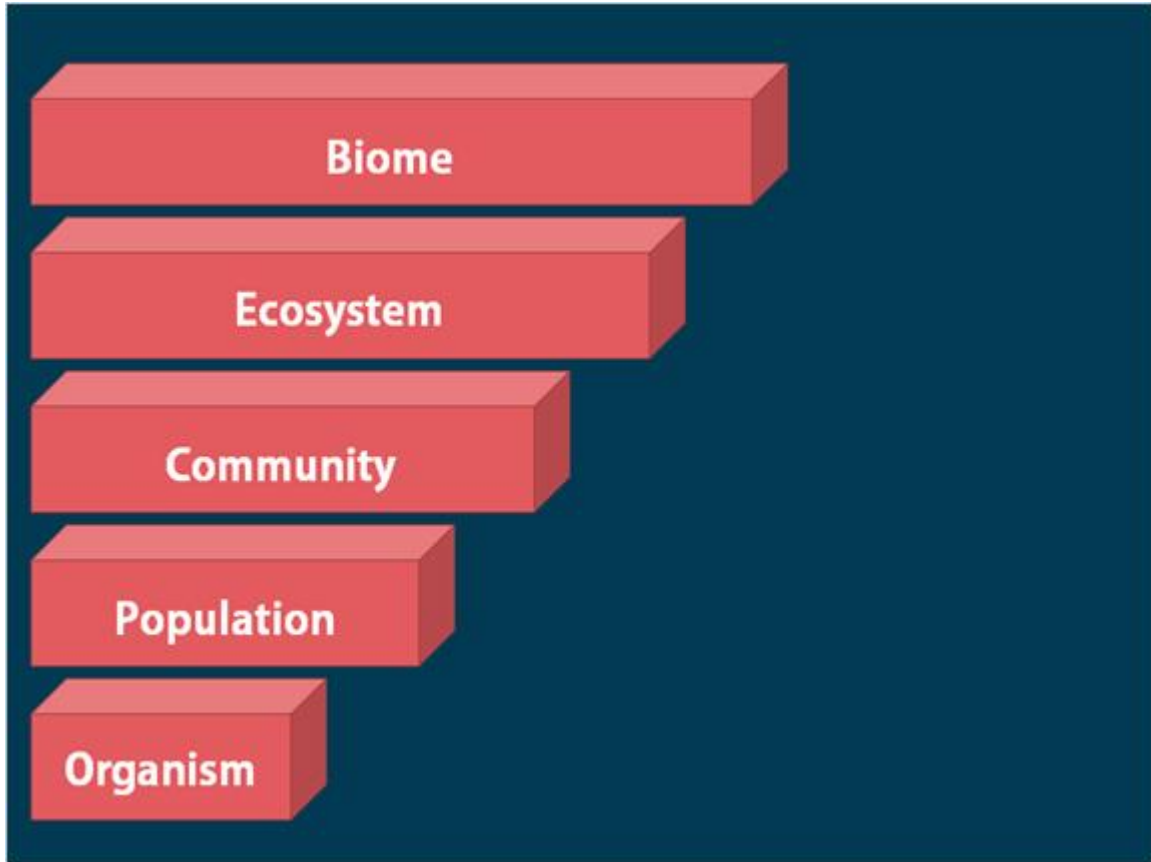


Ecological Organization

Click NEXT to begin.

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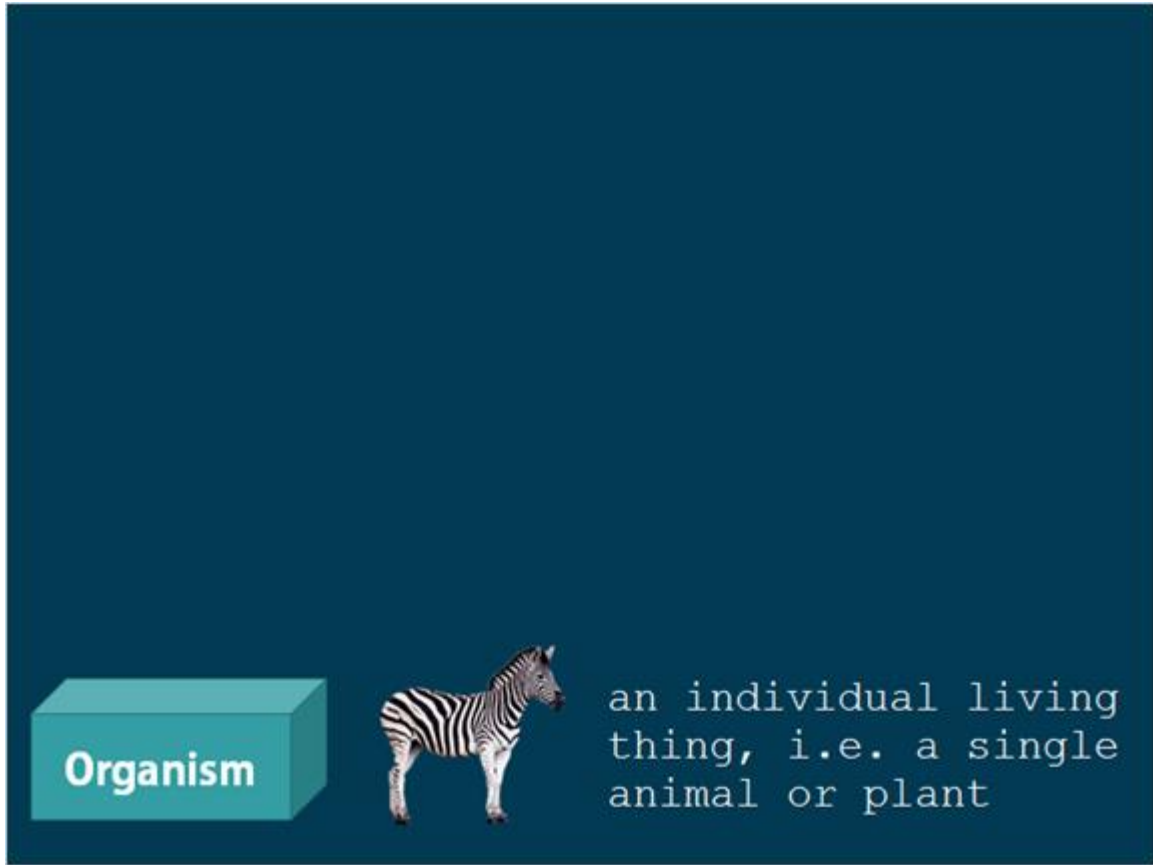
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When ecologists examine the relationships between organisms, as well as how organisms interact with their environments, they do so on several different levels. These levels range from the individual organism to larger, regional biomes. In this interactivity, click NEXT to learn more.

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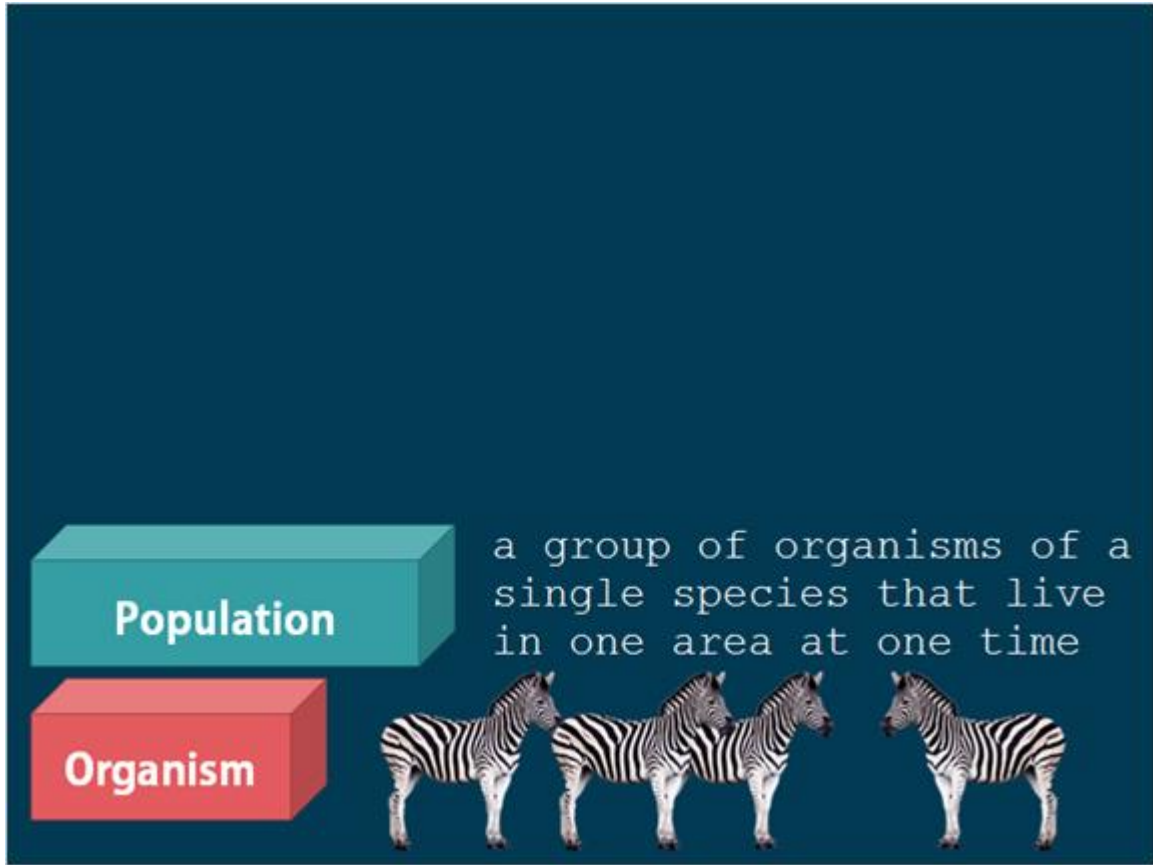
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An organism is an individual living thing, like a single animal or plant. For example, a zebra is an individual organism.

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A population is a group of organisms of a single species that live in one area at one time. For example, a herd of zebras is a population.

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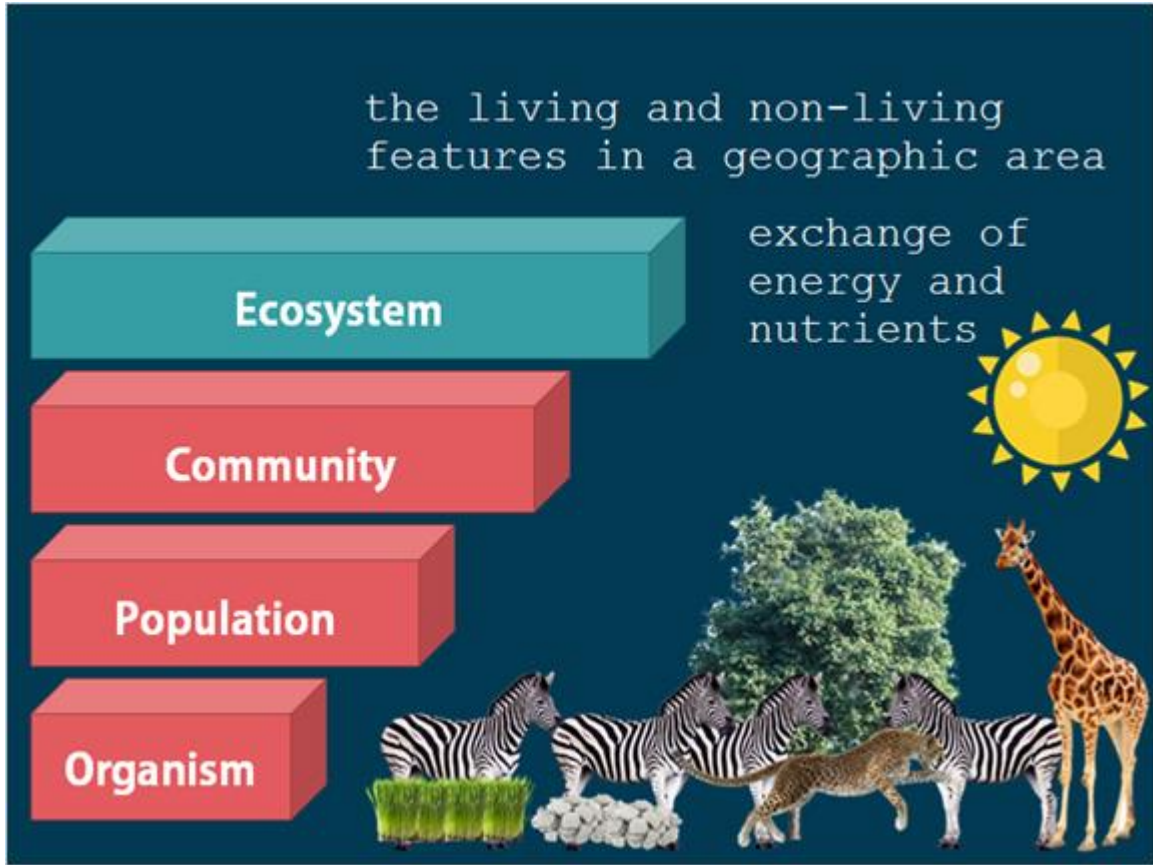
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A community is a collection of populations who interact with one another. For example, the communities in which zebras live include plants, like grasses and small trees, as well as large herbivores, like giraffes, and predators, like lions and cheetahs.

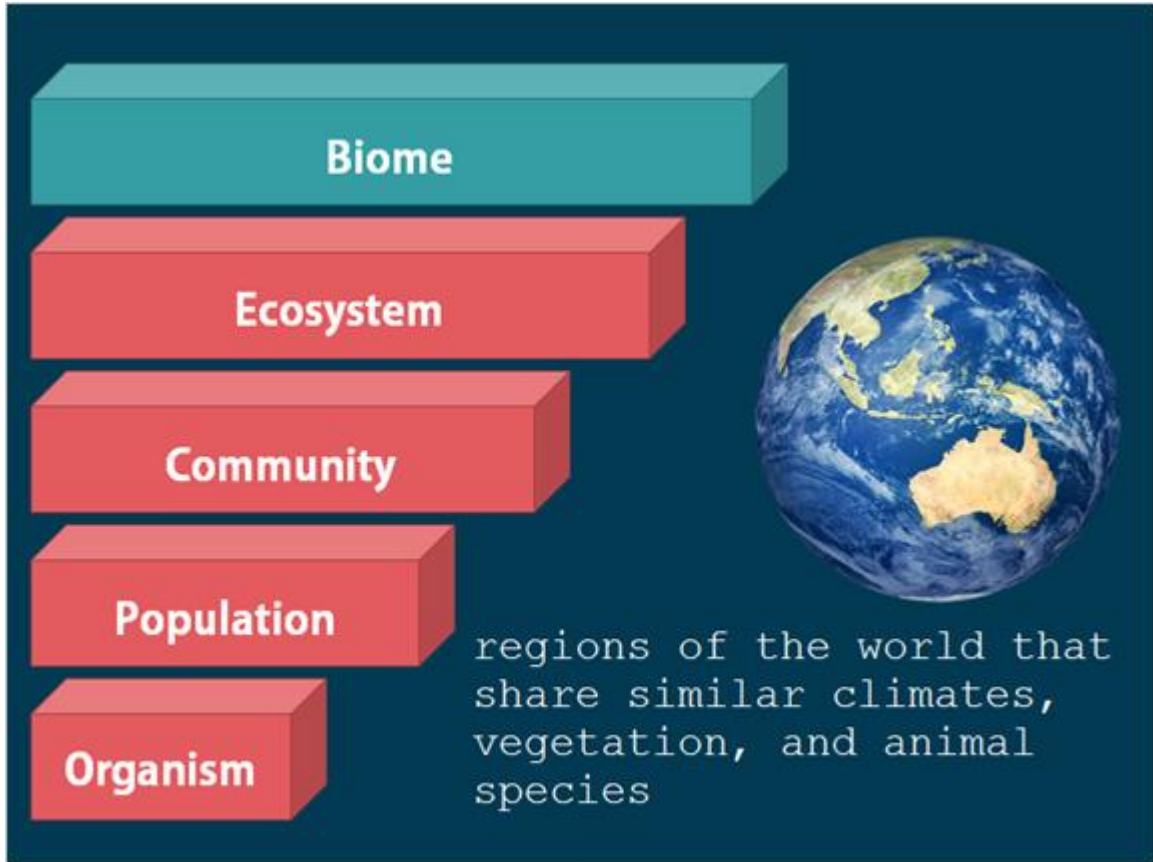
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An ecosystem includes the living community of populations, as well as the nonliving things in a geographic area that impact life. Those nonliving things can include water, soil, and the climate. Within an ecosystem, the organisms exchange energy and nutrients. An African grassland ecosystem includes the communities of living species living in one geographic area, as well as a warm climate with rainy and dry seasons and soil that has only a thin layer of organic material.

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Biomes are regions of the world that share similar climates, vegetation, and animal species. Grassland biomes are found in Africa, South America, Eurasia, and the plains of North America.

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Biome

Ecosystem

Community

Population

Organism

You have now learned about the different levels of ecological organization.

You may replay the content, or close the interactivity.

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