



Directed Reading for
Content Mastery

Overview Interactions of Life

290-708

Directions: Complete the two concept maps using the words listed below.

population
producers

consumers
community

decomposers
carnivores

biosphere
omnivores

herbivores
ecosystem

The 4. _____ includes the top portion of Earth's crust, all the waters that cover Earth's surface, and the surrounding environment.

An 3. _____ consists of all the communities that live in an area and the nonliving features of their environment.

A 2. _____ consists of all the populations that live in an area.

A 1. _____ consists of all the organisms of one species that live in an area.

All living organisms on Earth are either producers or consumers.

Green plants and other

5. _____
use an outside energy
source to make
energy-rich
compounds.

There are four categories of 6. _____, none
of which can make their own energy-rich compounds.

7. _____ eat producers.

8. _____ eat consumers.

9. _____ eat producers and consumers.

10. _____ consume dead organisms.



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Section 1 ■ Living Earth
Section 2 ■ Populations

Directions: Circle the word listed below in the puzzle. Then complete the sentences by writing the words in the appropriate spaces.

habitat

carrying

limiting

biosphere

population

community

ecologists

size

biotic

A H R X Z A R Y F W P
C A R R Y I N G Y G A
D B I O S P H E R E C
L I M I T I N G I F B
H T W C S D E Y D S I
Y A S M G F R E R R O
J T S N H J T Y T F T
P O P U L A T I O N I
U H X E L K S H D F C
C O M M U N I T Y E C
Y W F R P C Z H U I D
U U L O T Y E H U G H
E C O L O G I S T S E

- The part of the earth that supports life is called the _____.
- _____ are scientists who study organisms and their environments.
- All the people living in one area make up that area's _____.
- All the animals and plants living in an area make up a _____.
- The desert is a tarantula's _____.
- Competition limits a population's _____.
- Anything that restricts the number of individuals in a population is a _____ factor.
- _____ capacity is the largest number of individuals of one species that an ecosystem can support over time.
- The maximum rate of increase for a population is its _____ potential.