

# Ecosystems: Summary

## Answers

Use the words listed below to complete the sentences.

abiotic	abundance	adaptations	biotic	decomposers	ecology
ecosystem	fire	germinate	greenhouse	habitat	methane
petrol	predator	prey	species		

1. ..**Ecology**..... is the study of the way in which organisms interact with other organisms and with their environment.
2. An ..**ecosystem**..... is made up of living and non-living things that interact with each other.
3. The living things in an ecosystem are referred to as the .....**biotic**..... factors. The non-living features are called the .....**abiotic**..... factors.
4. A ...**habitat**..... is the place where a particular organism lives.
5. The distribution of a species tells us where it is found, whereas the .....**abundance**..... or density of the species tells us how many of these organisms live in a particular area.
6. The abiotic factors of an ecosystem affect what ...**species**..... can survive there.
7. An animal that hunts another animal is called a .....**predator**..... . The animal it hunts is called its .....**prey**..... .
8. After organisms die the ..**decomposers**..... are responsible for breaking down their bodies and recycling the atoms that make them up.
9. Human activity has increased the amount of gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. These gases are called ...**greenhouse**..... gases. They include carbon dioxide, .....**methane**....., water vapour, nitrous oxide and ozone.
10. Burning fossil fuels such as coal, .....**petrol**..... and gas also releases carbon dioxide, which will enhance the greenhouse effect.
11. In the Australian bush, .....**fire**..... is a natural part of the cycle of life for many plants. Many Australian plants cannot .....**germinate**..... without fire.
12. ...**Adaptations**..... are features that help an organism survive in its environment.