



Biology B
Unit 14 Glossary

Term	Definition
biogeochemical cycle	the process by which particular chemical compounds move between the biotic and abiotic components of the ecosystem. (Unit 14, Lesson 2)
climax community	a stable ecosystem that is established after succession. (Unit 14, Lesson 1)
denitrification	the ability of some microorganisms to convert nitrogen found in solid compounds to atmospheric nitrogen. (Unit 14, Lesson 2)
ecological stability	the ability of a community to respond to or recover quickly to environmental stress. (Unit 14, Lesson 4)
greenhouse Gases	compounds present in the atmosphere that absorb more heat from the sun than others. (Unit 14, Lesson 2)
intermediate species	organisms able to inhabit an ecosystem once pioneer species have been able to enhance the soil. (Unit 14 Lesson 1)
nitrogen fixation	soil bacteria found in the roots of some plants take atmospheric nitrogen and convert it into ammonia, which is absorbable by plants.(Unit 14, Lesson 2)
pioneer species	the first organisms to inhabit an ecosystem after an environmental disturbance. (Unit 14, Lesson 1)
primary succession	the process of colonization or replacement of species in an area that did not previously support life or where soil was completely removed. For example, lava from a volcanic eruption completely covers an area. (Unit 14, Lesson 1)
secondary succession	the process of replacement of species after a disturbance in an area where soil was not removed. For example, a forest fire burns all the plants in an area. (Unit 14, Lesson 1)