

## ***General Ecology***

Ecology: how organisms interact with one another and with their environment

Environment: abiotic and biotic features

*Levels of Organization:* Population (same species) > Community (diff. species, biotic) > Ecosystem (community+abiotic) > Biosphere (portion of Earth w/living species)

## ***Aquatic Ecosystems***

*Lentic Ecosystems* (STILL Water)

**Ponds** Bottom of the pond still receives light, unlike lakes. **Horizontal Lake Zones**

**Littoral Zone:** Near the shoreline; Sunlight penetrates all the way to sediments; Allows for aquatic plants (**macrophytes**) to grow. **Limnetic Zone** open water, away from shore. **Vertical Lake Zones**