

Checklist

What you should know

After studying this subtopic you should be able to:

- Explain what biotic and abiotic interactions are and how they influence growth, survival and reproduction, including how a species obtains food.
- Explain the differences between obligate anaerobes, facultative anaerobes and obligate aerobes.
- Summarise the process of photosynthesis as the mode of nutrition in plants, algae and several groups of photosynthetic prokaryotes.
- Explain the various modes of holozoic, mixotrophic, saprotrophic nutrition.
- Give details of the diversity of nutrition in archaea.
- Summarise the relationship between dentition and the diet of omnivorous and herbivorous representative members of the family Hominidae.
- Infer the diet of several hominid species from anatomical features.
- Describe the adaptations of herbivores for feeding on plants and of plants for resisting herbivory.
- Describe the adaptations of predators for finding, catching and killing prey and of prey animals for resisting predation.
- Describe the adaptations of plants for harvesting light.
- Describe and explain the differences between the fundamental and the realised niches.
- Explain the concept of competitive exclusion and the uniqueness of ecological niches.

