

- Ecosystem structure
 - Levels of organization matter
- Realm of Ecology
 - Individual
 - Population
 - A group of individual organisms of the same species that interbreed and that occupy a given area at a given time
 - Community
 - The populations of plant and animals living and interacting in a given area at a given time
 - Each organism and population in a natural community has a habitat- the place where it lives
 - Vary in size from an entire forest to the intestine of a termite
 - A natural community is not just a collection of organisms. The most important aspect is.....
 - Ecosystem
 - Principles of Ecosystem Function
 - Processes regulated by biotic and abiotic factors
 - Dynamic homeostasis
 - Systems adjust to reduce change from normal
 - Negative feedback
 - System reverses a directional change
 - Positive feedback
- Environment
 - Physical (abiotic)
 - Sunlight, air, space, water
 - All organisms respond to the total makeup of their environment, but the one factor that limits their success is called the **limiting factor**.

01/13/2015

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