

Community Interactions

EQ: How does the relationships between organisms affect one another?

Q1

Habitat- the place in which an organism lives (address)

Niche - the role a species plays in a community (job)

- A niche is determined by the tolerance limitations of an organism, or limiting factors.
- If a niche becomes available, or a new one forms, an organism will evolve to fill it

Q2

Limiting factor- any biotic or abiotic factor that restricts the existence of organisms in a specific environment.



How do community organisms interact?

- Competition: two or more competing for the same resources
 - Happens when two species have the same niche
 - Ex: Three different species of mice compete for the same food in a woodland community
- Predation: one species hunts the other
 - Ex: Great horned owls are predators of cottontail rabbits



How do community organisms interact?

- Parasitism: one species (parasite) benefits at the expense of the other species (host)
 - Ex: a tapeworm lives in the intestines of a dog, taking nutrients
- Commensalism: directly benefits one species, but doesn't greatly affect the other at all
 - Ex: maple trees provide nesting for blue jays, but the trees aren't affected by the birds



How do community organisms interact?

- Mutualism: directly benefits both species. AKA mutually beneficial
 - Ex: clownfish live in sea anemone's for protection. Clownfish lure food for the sea anemone

