**Ecology Quarter 4 Vocabulary**

**Set 1**

1. **abiotic** - a non- living chemical or physical factor in the environment such as soil, temperature, and water

***Skip a line after each definition***

1. **biotic** - any factor in the environment that is living or was once living
2. **Producer-** An organism that captures energy from sunlight and transforms it into chemical energy.
3. **Consumer**- A living thing that captures its energy by eating other living things in a food chain.
4. **Food web** - A model used to show feeding relationships in which many food chains interact
5. **Symbiosis**- The relationship between two different species that depend on each other.
6. **Niche**- The role that a living thing has in its environment.
7. **Biodiversity**- The number of species found within an ecosystem

**Set 2**

1. **Species-** - A group of living things that have similar characteristics and breed to produce an offspring like itself.
2. **Limiting factors** - - Any factor or condition that limits the growth of a population in an ecosystem. (Examples-lack of food, too many predators, not enough space, or sunlight)
3. **Carrying capacity** - Maximum population of a particular organism that a given environment can support.
4. **Equilibrium** - Equal balance between organisms in an environment.
5. **Population** - All the individuals of one species in a particular area.
6. **Community** - All the populations of different species that live and interact with each other in a particular area.
7. **Adaptation**- An alteration in characteristic behavior or trait that makes a species able to survive and reproduce in a particular environment.
8. **Competition**- The struggle between two or more living things that depend on the same limited resources.

**Set 3**

1. **endangered-** Seriously at risk of extinction.
2. **habitat restoration**- The practice of renewing and restoring damaged, or destroyed [ecosystems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecosystem) and [habitats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat) in the [environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_environment) by active human intervention and action.
3. **reforestation**- the process of planting new trees in areas where they have been removed by cutting or destroyed by fire, disease
4. **maximize**- increase or amplify
5. **minimize** – decrease or reduce
6. **environment**- all external factors surrounding and affecting an organism
7. **herbivore**- An organism that eats plants for energy.
8. **carnivore**- An organism that eats meat for energy.