



# Ecological Biogeography

## Ecological Biogeography Vocabulary

Name:

Section:

Directions: Use the following terms and definitions to assist as you complete course materials.

### Ecological Biogeography Course Vocabulary

Number	Word	Definition	Unit
1.	<i>Arid</i>	Dry climatic conditions making it difficult for an area to support plants and animals.	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
2.	<i>Biomes</i>	Classes of ecosystems that can be found dispersed throughout different geographic regions of the earth. Characterized by climatic forces resulting in ecological zones.	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
3.	<i>Climate</i>	Annual seasonal changes in a geographic area's temperature and/or precipitation.	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
4.	<i>Ecogeography</i>	The study of the environmental effects on the distribution of the planet's flora and fauna, and the interactions between the species and their environment.	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
5.	<i>Ecosystem</i>	The interaction between a geographic area's plants and animals, along with the physical environment.	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
6.	<i>Polar Regions</i>	Earth's frigid zones located near the South Pole in Antarctica, and near the North Pole in the Arctic.	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
7.	<i>Temperate</i>	Climatic zone characterized by mild summers and mild winters.	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
8.	<i>Tropics</i>	Geographical area around the equator, between the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N) and the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S).	Unit IV – Principles of Ecogeography
9.	<i>Alpine</i>	Biome region located in mountain and highland areas.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
10.	<i>Boreal Forest</i>	A biome (sometimes called Taiga or Snow Forest) characterized by coniferous trees and longer cold winters.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
11.	<i>Coniferous</i>	Plant species characterized by evergreen leaves and bearing cones as seeds.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
12.	<i>Deciduous</i>	Plant species, typically found in temperate and tropical zones characterized with broad leaves that undergo an annual shedding.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
13.	<i>Deciduous Forest</i>	Primarily mid-latitude temperate forests, characterized by being able to support	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
14.	<i>Desert</i>	Biome characterized by arid conditions and very limited precipitation. Deserts are characterized as hot and dry, semi-arid, coastal, or cold. Receives less than 10in (25cm) of rain a year.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations

15.	<i>Mediterranean/Chaparral</i>	Biome located near coastal areas, characterized by semi-arid conditions, with mild winters, that do not allow for the growth of large species of plants.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
16.	<i>Natural Resources</i>	Things that are found naturally in an environment, that are used by a species for its own purposes.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
17.	<i>Rainforest</i>	Temperate or tropical forests that receive over 80 in (200 cm) of rain each year.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
18.	<i>Savanna</i>	Biome found in tropical areas, characterized as grasslands with sparsely distributed trees.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
19.	<i>Steppe/Grassland</i>	Biome characterized by large open expanses of grasses, with limited large vegetation like trees.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
20.	<i>Taiga</i>	A biome (sometimes called Boreal Forest or Snow Forest) characterized by coniferous trees and longer cold winters.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
21.	<i>Tundra</i>	Biotic Region in the extreme North and South, characterized by long cold winters, and short summers.	Unit V – Biome Adaptations
22.	<i>Anthropocene</i>	Man-Kind's visible impact on the Earth's Surface, also used to define the evolutionary era in Earth's history where humans have existed as a species.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
23.	<i>Conservation</i>	Efforts to preserve the natural environment through ethical resource usage, allocation of resources, and protection with the ultimate goal of maintaining the health of an ecosystem.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
24.	<i>Deforestation</i>	The clearance of forest or stands of trees, usually because of human activity or involvement.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
25.	<i>Desertification</i>	Land degradation where an area becomes increasingly arid, leading to the growth of deserts.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
26.	<i>Endangered Species</i>	Species of plants and animals whose numbers have declined to the point of risk of extinction.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
27.	<i>Exotic Species</i>	Non-indigenous species of plants or animals that have moved into a geographical area.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
28.	<i>Greenhouse Gases</i>	Gases that are released into the atmosphere (water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, and nitrous oxide) that contribute to global warming.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
29.	<i>Human Ecology</i>	Study of the relationship between humans and their environment.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
30.	<i>Human Sprawl</i>	The increased distribution of man-kind, that encroaches on the natural environment.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
31.	<i>Human-Environment Interaction</i>	The relationship between humans and the environment. How humans impact the environment, use the environment's	Unit VI – Human Ecology

		resources, and are in turn impacted by the environment.	
32.	<i>Invasive Species</i>	Species that are not native to a location, often causing harm to plants and animals that are native to the area.	Unit VI – Human Ecology
33.	<i>Management</i>	Wildlife management policies and practices by humans meant to check or sustain populations of plants and animals.	Unit VI – Human Ecology