

Environment Unit Vocabulary

viable- alive and able to grow

wetland- low-lying land saturated with moisture, such as a marsh or swamp

ecosystem- a system of living things and all the nonliving things that surround it and the relationship between them

advantage- the good or benefit that is gained from something

functions- the job of an organism within a natural system

producers- an organism that can make its own food and provides food for other organisms

environmental factor- one part of the environment that can be living (plant or animal) or nonliving (water, light, temperature)

catastrophic event- an event that brings great harm, suffering or loss to a large area or many people/organisms

garden- an area of land used for growing flowers or vegetables

prairie- a large area of land covered with grass

consumers- an organism that gets energy by eating other organisms

environment- everything that surrounds and influences an organism

variable- a factor that can be changed in an experiment that may affect the results

isopod- an organism that has an equal number of similar feet or legs on both sides

optimum- environmental conditions that are the best for an organism

decomposers- an organism that gets energy by feeding on decaying, rotting organisms and wastes

controlled experiment- an experiment in which one, and only one variable is changed in order to measure its effect

niche- the role that an animal plays in its habitat

invasive- something that spreads in a place where it doesn't belong

range of tolerance- the range of conditions in which an organism can survive

beneficial- having a good or favorable effect

organism- any living thing including plants and animals

natural system- a group of structures that work together in nature

pollution- poisons, wastes, or other materials that harm the environment