

Year 7 – Ecosystems Glossary

Key word	Definition
anther	The male part of a flower that produces pollen.
bioaccumulation	The build-up of toxic chemicals inside organisms in a food chain.
carpel	The female part of the flower, made up of the stigma where the pollen lands, style, and ovary.
community	The collection of the different types of organism present in an ecosystem.
competition	Competing with other organisms for resources.
consumer	Animal that eats other animals or plants.
decomposer	Organism that breaks down dead plant and animal material so nutrients can be recycled back to the soil or water.
ecosystem	The living things in a given area and their non-living environment.
environment	The surrounding air, water, and soil where an organism lives.
fertilisation	Joining of a nucleus from a male and female sex cell.
filament	The part of a flower that holds up the anther.
food chain	Part of a food web, starting with a producer and ending with a top predator. This diagram shows the transfer of energy between organisms.
food web	A diagram that shows how food chains in an ecosystem are linked.
fruit	Structure that the ovary becomes after fertilisation, which contains seeds.
germination	The period of time when a seed starts to grow.
habitat	The area in which an organism lives.

interdependence	The way in which living organisms depend on each other to survive, grow, and reproduce.
niche	A particular place or role that an organism has in an ecosystem.
ovary	The part of a flower that contains ovules.
ovule	Female sex cells in plants found in the ovary.
petal	A brightly coloured part of a flower that attracts insects.
pollen	Contains the plant male sex cells found on the stamens.
pollination	Transfer of pollen from the male part of the flower to the female part of the flower on the same or another plant.
population	Group of the same species living in an area.
predator	An animal that eats other animals.
prey	An animal that is eaten by another animal.
producer	Green plant or algae that makes its own food using sunlight by the process of photosynthesis.
seed	Structure that contains the embryo of a new plant.
seed dispersal	The movement of seeds away from the parent plant.
sepal	The special leaves found under the flower, which protect unopened buds.
stamen	The male reproductive parts of the flower.
stigma	The female part of a flower that is sticky to catch grains of pollen.
style	The female part of a flower that holds up the stigma.