## Ecology

Chapter 2 Section 1 Groups of living things interact within ecosystems **Ecology Ch. 2 Learning Goal 1:** Describe how groups of living things interact with each other. Information LSO Organisms occupy specific living areas (p.45) Scientists group living things according to their shared characteristics. **Species:** a group of organisms so similar that they can produce \_\_\_\_\_ that can also \_\_\_\_\_ offspring. Ex: **Population:** a group of organisms of the same that live in a particular Ex: all the rabbits in Kansas City 1. How does a boundary define a population? Living things survive in places with different characteristics: Habitat: the \_\_\_\_\_\_ location where plants and animals live. A habitat has characteristics like precipitation, \_\_\_\_\_\_, and soil quality (abiotic factors) Ex: rabbits live in \_\_\_\_\_\_ or meadows Niche: the special \_\_\_\_\_ an organism plays within its \_\_\_\_\_ (like its specific needs) Ex: rabbits eat grass, flowering plants,, weeds, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of small trees. They graze (eat) for long periods of time and live in \_\_\_\_\_\_ that they dig. 2. What things about an animal show us its niche?

A) BIOME  Large area characterized by a certain		es of organisms live together
Ex: rabbits, squirrels,, skunks, raccoons, and all live in the woods  The environment can be organized into five levels (p. 18)  1) BIOME  Large area characterized by a certain and specific types of plants  2) ECOSYSTEM  Smaller than a biome but contains and factors living together (includes organisms and their environment)  3) COMMUNITY  Living components of an ecosystem. Different, animals, and other organisms interact.  4) POPULATION  Group of organisms of the same living in the ame area.  5) ORGANISM (INDIVIDUAL)  a single living thing (one organism of one species)  3. Describe the gazelle's place in each level of the	Community: 2	a group of that live
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## Patterns exist in populations (p.50) Populations of animals may be crowded together, be spread far apart, or live in small groups. Patterns in living space The distribution of animals in a habitat is influenced by how they meet their needs. Animals must be able to reach food and have a place to raise their young. • Ex: creosote bushes- spaced evenly in the desert because each bush releases a toxin to keep other plants from growing too close to it. Each bush competes with other organisms. Ex: Herring fish swim in schools that are spaced a certain way, and wildebeests roam the African grasslands in closely packed herds. These are examples of patterns of living space. Patterns in time Animal populations increase at different times of the year Ex: yellow jacket wasp populations are high in the summer and fall but low in the winter and spring Ex: birds that next in North America in summer fly south to Central and South America in winter. 4. Is the herd a pattern in space or in time? Explain. 5. How does living in large herds meet animals' needs?