

Homework **What Is Ecology?**

Key Concepts

- What different levels of organization do ecologists study?
- What methods are used to study ecology?

Interactions and Interdependence

1. What is ecology? _____

2. What does the biosphere contain? _____

Levels of Organization

3. Why do ecologists ask questions about events and organisms that range in complexity from an individual to the biosphere? _____

4. Complete the table about levels of organization.

LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION

Level	Definition
Species	
	A group of individuals that belong to the same species and live in the same area
Community	
Ecosystem	
	A group of ecosystems that have the same climate and dominant communities

5. What is the highest level of organization that ecologists study? _____

Ecological Methods

6. What are the three basic approaches scientists use to conduct modern ecological research?

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

7. Why might an ecologist set up an artificial environment in a laboratory?

8. Why are many ecological phenomena difficult to study? _____

9. Why do ecologists make models? _____

10. Is the following sentence true or false? An ecological model may consist of a mathematical formula. _____