

## Biology and the Environment B3 Fact Sheet

A **habitat** is an environment where animals and plants live.

An **Organism** is any living thing.

An **Ecosystem** is a group of living organisms interacting as a system.

**Physical factors** are not living, but can affect organisms, e.g. Weather

**Biological factors** are other living things that can affect an organism, e.g. Predator

**Adaptations** are features that help organisms survive in their environments.

A **Producer** is always at the start of a food chain and uses sunlight as their source of energy.

**Consumers** are organisms that eat other organisms.

The **arrows in a food chain** show the movement of energy from one organism to another.

An **Adaptation** is a change in an organism that allows it to be more suited to its environment.

Animals best adapted to their environment survive and reproduce.

Living organisms compete for **food, water, mate** and **territory (space)**.

**Quantitative data** can be measured and recorded using numbers, for example population size.

**Qualitative data** is non-numerical data.

**Pesticides** are chemicals used to kill insects.

**Bioaccumulation** is the build-up of chemicals, such as pesticides, as they are passed on through a food chain.

**Indicator species**, such as Lichens, can be used to investigate level of pollution.

**Deforestation** is the destruction or removal of forest or woodland. This can contribute to global warming, habitat loss and a reduction in biodiversity.

**Biodiversity** is the number of different species of living organisms found in an area.

Investigations that are **Reproducible** can be carried out by another investigator who will collect the same results.

**Independent variable** is the thing that gets changed.

**Dependent variable** is the thing that gets measured.

**Control variables** are the things that stay the same.