**Ecosystems Unit Test Study Guide**

Test will be on\_\_\_\_\_\_10/7/14\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Be familiar with the questions below. You will also need to review your notes taken during this unit. If you have notes, listen in class, and study for this test, you should be prepared for this multiple choice test.**

1. What are food chains, food webs, and energy pyramids? How do they relate?

Food chains are the path of energy passed from one organism to another. A food web is the overlapping food chains in an ecosystem. An energy pyramid displays energy flow in an ecosystem. They all involve energy being passed in an ecosystem.

1. Explain habitat reduction caused by humans.

Humans cause habitat reduction through pollution and deforestation. Both kill animals and their homes.

1. What are the effects on the organisms in an environment when there is an increase in human population?

When there is an increase in human population, animals lose their homes due to construction and deforestation. Animals’ resources become fewer.

1. Describe the six terrestrial ecosystems: Use the definitions from your glossary.
   1. Deciduous forest
   2. Tropical Rainforest
   3. Taiga
   4. Tundra
   5. Grasslands (prairie and savanna)
   6. Desert
2. Describe the 2 main aquatic ecosystems and name examples and properties (including plants and animals) of each.

The two main aquatic ecosystems are freshwater (lakes and ponds)and saltwater (ocean and sea). Freshwater ecosystems contain algae, alligators, freshwater trout, frogs, and ducks. Saltwater ecosystems contain seaweed, algae, flounder (and other fish), coral sharks, whales, and dolphins.

1. What is a producer, consumer, and decomposer? How does each receive its energy?

A producer is a plant that receives its energy from the sun. A consumer is an animal that eats plants and/or other animals and it gets its energy from what it eats. A decomposer breaks down dead plants and animals and that’s what is gets its energy from.

1. Explain the importance of the sun in a food web.

The sun is important in a food web because it provides energy to plants which then feed animals.

1. Describe the following consumers: carnivore, omnivore, and herbivore.

A carnivore is an animal that eats meat only. An omnivore is an animal that eats plants and animals. A herbivore eats plants only.

1. Name three biotic and abiotic factors in a terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem.

Biotic factors: coral, vines, trees, seaweed, beavers, whales, arctic fox, birds.

Abiotic factors: sun, soil (sand, clay, rocks), water, temperature

1. In a grassland ecosystem, if the population of eagles suddenly decreased, what will ***most likely*** be the effect on the rest of the ecosystem?

If the eagle population suddenly decreased, the mice population would increase because their predator would no longer exist.

1. Describe the three types of symbiosis and give one example of each.
   1. Mutualism

Mutualism is a relationship between 2 organisms where both benefit. For example, an Egyptian plover cleans a crocodile’s teeth and in turn, the crocodile is giving the bird food.

* 1. Parasitism

Parasitism is when a plant or animal benefits while the other is harmed. For example, a tapeworm can live inside an animal or human. Human is harmed (host), while the tapeworm is eating all of the human’s food (parasite).

* 1. Commensalism

Commensalism is when an organism benefits from another organism without helping or harming it. An example would be when a flower grows up a tree. The flower is getting closer to the sun and the tree is not getting helped or harmed.