

Name _____

Exploring Ecosystems: Nature's Complex Communities

Short Answer Key

1. Example: Abiotic factors are non-living components like sunlight, soil, water, and air, while biotic factors are living organisms such as plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria.
2. Example: Plants are primary producers that convert sunlight into chemical energy through photosynthesis. They play a crucial role in producing food and oxygen for other organisms in the ecosystem.
3. Example: Consumers are organisms that obtain energy by feeding on other organisms. Herbivores consume plants, carnivores feed on other animals, and omnivores eat both plants and animals.
4. Example: Decomposers break down organic matter from dead plants and animals, releasing nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus back into the soil for uptake by plants.
5. Example: Dynamic processes like energy flow and nutrient cycling ensure that matter and energy are continuously exchanged within the ecosystem, contributing to its stability and resilience.

