**Vocabulary Set 9**

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| Population dynamics | **The study of changes in the number of individuals in a population and the factors that affect those changes.** |
| Carrying capacity | **The maximum number of individuals an ecosystem can support.** |
| Biotic factors | **Living components (bacteria, fungi, plants and animals)** |
| Abiotic factors | **Non-living, physical or chemical components (water, oxygen)** |
| Density dependent | **Examples: Competition for food, shelter, territory, or mates** |
| Density independent | **Examples: weather changes, human activity-pollution, natural disasters** |
| Ecosystem | **Communities of organisms and their abiotic factors living together, sustained by the continuous flow of energy** |
| Species | **Same organisms that cab breed with each other** |
| Population | **Small group of same species in the same location/geographic area** |
| Community  | **Different populations that interact together within a certain area** |
| Habitat | **The place where an organism lives** |
| Niche | **An organism’s role/’job’** |
| Coexist | **To exist together or at the same time** |
| Cooperation | **The process where groups of organisms work or act together for common or mutual benefits** |
| Competition | **Occurs when 2 or more organisms need the same resource at the same time (food, shelter, water)** |
| Predation | **The preying of one animal on others.** |
| Predator | **Consumers that hunt and kill other consumers.** |
| Prey | **Animals that are hunted and killed.** |
| Mutualism | **Symbiotic relationship in which both organisms benefit and they help each other to survive** |
| Commensalism | **Symbiotic relationship where one organism benefits and the other is not affected positively or negatively** |
| Parasitism | **Symbiotic relationship where one organism (the parasite) benefits at the expense of the other organism (the host)** |
| Symbiosis | **A mutually beneficial relationship between different people or groups.** |
| Producer | **An organism that captures energy from sunlight and transforms it to chemical energy that is stored in energy-rich carbon compounds.** |
| Consumer | **Organisms that cannot make their own energy.** |
| Decomposer | **An organism that feeds on and breaks down dead plant or animal matter** |