

Chapter 2: Populations

Vocabulary

population.

A group of organisms of one kind living in the same place at the same time.

Examples: humans on earth, fish in a lake, bacteria in a stomach, clover in a field

mortality

The death rate of a population

birthrate

The number of new organisms added to a population

immigration

The arrival of new organisms to a population increasing the size of the population

emigration

The departure of organisms in a population, decreasing the size of that population

biotic

Living or recently living part of an ecosystem

Examples: grass, trees, fish, mushrooms

abiotic

A non-living part of an ecosystem

Examples: rocks, air, water

limiting factor

A condition of the environment that restricts the number of organisms that can live in an environment

Examples: food, temperature, water pollution

carrying capacity.

The maximum number of living organisms that can live off the resources of an area.

homeostasis

A condition in which the population of an area is in balance with the resources necessary to provide support

dispersal

The moving out of organisms from one area to another

Example: dandelion seeds blowing across a lawn