



- 7 Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ is a layer of gases surrounding the planet Earth and retained by the Earth's gravity.
- 9 A \_\_\_\_\_ species is a species which colonizes previously uncolonized land, usually leading to ecological succession.
- 10 A \_\_\_\_\_ is an organism that produces complex organic compounds from simple inorganic molecules and an external source of energy, such as light or chemical reactions of inorganic compounds.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ is the scientific study of systems of living organisms and the interactions among organisms and between the organisms and their environment.
- 13 A \_\_\_\_\_ cycle is a circuit or pathway by which a chemical element or molecule moves through both biotic and abiotic compartments of an ecosystem.
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ components are non-living chemical and physical factors in the environment.
- 15 A \_\_\_\_\_ species is a dominant primary producer in an ecosystem both in terms of abundance and influence.
- 17 The term \_\_\_\_\_ was coined by geologist Eduard Suess in 1875, which he defined as the place on earth's surface where life dwells.
- 21 The \_\_\_\_\_ zone, also known as the littoral zone, in marine aquatic environments is the area of the foreshore and seabed that is exposed to the air at low tide and submerged at high tide.
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ is an area where the tree growth is hindered by low temperatures and short growing seasons.
- 25 The equilibrium maximum of the population of an organism is known as the ecosystem's carrying \_\_\_\_\_ for that organism.
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ succession is a type of ecological succession of plant life which occurs in an environment in which new substrate, devoid of vegetation and usually lacking soil, is deposited
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_s, or saprotrophs, are organisms that consume dead organisms, carrying out the natural process of decomposition.
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ succession is the type of ecological succession of plant life started by an event such as a forest fire or hurricane that reduces an already established ecosystem.
- 31 Recognized as one of the most productive and dynamic ecosystems on Earth, \_\_\_\_\_ forests are formed by brown macroalgae of the order Laminariales.

**ACROSS**

- 1 The \_\_\_\_\_ zone is the lowest level of a body of water such as an ocean or a lake.
- 3 Ecological \_\_\_\_\_ refers to more-or-less predictable and orderly changes in the composition or structure of an ecological community.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ production is the production of organic compounds from atmospheric or aquatic carbon dioxide, principally through the process of photosynthesis, with chemosynthesis being much less important.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ is the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome or for the entire Earth.
- 12 A \_\_\_\_\_ is an organism that requires organic substrates to get its carbon for growth and development.
- 13 In ecology, \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the cumulation of life that is possibly living matter. That is, it is the total living biological, usually measured per square metre or square kilometre.
- 16 A \_\_\_\_\_ is an assemblage of populations of different species, interacting with one another.
- 18 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a major geographical area of ecologically similar communities of plants, animals, and soil organisms, often referred to as

ecosystems. They are defined based on factors such as plant structures, leaf types, and other factors like climate.

- 19 A \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes called a bioregion, is the next smallest ecologically and geographically defined area beneath realm or ecozone.
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ is the area where a particular species lives.
- 23 Food \_\_\_\_\_s, food webs and/or food networks describe the feeding relationships between species in an ecological community.
- 24 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a term describing the relational position of a species or population in its ecosystem, describing how an organism or population responds to the distribution of resources and competitors
- 28 A \_\_\_\_\_ or biogeographic realm is the largest scale biogeographic division of the earth's surface based on the historic and evolutionary distribution patterns of plants and animals.
- 30 The continental \_\_\_\_\_ is the extended perimeter of each continent and associated coastal plain, which is covered during interglacial periods such as the current epoch by relatively shallow seas and gulfs
- 32 The carbon \_\_\_\_\_ is the biogeochemical circuit by which

carbon is exchanged between the biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere of the Earth.

- 33 An ecological or trophic \_\_\_\_\_ is a graphical representation designed to show the biomass or productivity at each trophic level in a given ecosystem.
- 34 \_\_\_\_\_ vegetation is the vegetation which establishes itself on a given site for given climatic conditions in the absence of anthropic action after a long time.
- 35 \_\_\_\_\_ soil is soil at or below the freezing point of water for two or more years.
- 36 Species \_\_\_\_\_ is the simplest measure of biodiversity and is simply a count of the number of different species in a given area.

**DOWN**

- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ is a biome characterized by coniferous forests. It is the world's largest terrestrial biome.
- 4 K-\_\_\_\_\_s are organisms that grow slowly and usually require parenting until maturity, such as whales.
- 5 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms in an area functioning together with all the non-living physical factors of the environment.