

Ecosystems and Their Components

Chapter 12: How Nature Works in Harmony · Topic 1

Key Concept

Biotic components include producers (plants, which make their own food), consumers (animals, which eat other organisms), and decomposers (fungi and bacteria, which break down dead matter, recycling nutrients back into the ecosystem). Abiotic components like temperature, sunlight, and rainfall determine which organisms can survive in a particular ecosystem — for example, a desert ecosystem supports very different organisms than a rainforest ecosystem due to differing abiotic conditions.

Quick Revision Notes

- An ecosystem includes biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components.
- Biotic roles: producers (plants), consumers (animals), decomposers (fungi/bacteria).
- Decomposers recycle nutrients from dead matter back into the ecosystem.
- Abiotic factors (temperature, sunlight, rainfall) determine which organisms can survive there.

Practice Questions

- 1 List two biotic and two abiotic components of a forest ecosystem.
- 2 Explain the role of decomposers in an ecosystem.
- 3 Why do desert and rainforest ecosystems support very different organisms?