

Ecosystems

Chapter 18: Ecosystems · Topic 1

Key Concept

An ecosystem includes biotic components (living things like plants, animals) and abiotic components (non-living things like water, soil, air).

Energy flows through an ecosystem via food chains and food webs, starting from producers (plants) to various levels of consumers.

Ecosystems can be terrestrial (forests, deserts) or aquatic (ponds, oceans), each with unique organisms adapted to that environment.

Maintaining ecological balance is crucial, as disturbing one part of an ecosystem, like removing a species, can affect the entire system.

Quick Revision Notes

- Ecosystem: biotic + abiotic components.
- Biotic: plants, animals (living).
- Abiotic: water, soil, air (non-living).
- Energy flows via food chains/webs.
- Starts from producers (plants) to consumers.
- Types: terrestrial (forest) or aquatic (pond).
- Each has adapted organisms.
- Disturbing one part affects the whole system.

Practice Questions

- 1 List the biotic and abiotic components of your local environment.
- 2 Draw a simple food chain for an ecosystem.
- 3 Discuss the difference between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- 4 Discuss why removing a species can disrupt an ecosystem.
- 5 Research a specific ecosystem and its organisms.
- 6 Explain ecological balance in your own words.