

Chapter 3 The Biosphere

Section 3–1 What Is Ecology? (pages 63–65)



TEKS FOCUS: 3C Impact of research on environment

This section identifies the different levels of organization that ecologists study. It also describes methods used to study ecology.

Interactions and Interdependence (page 63)

1. What is ecology? _____

2. What does the biosphere contain? _____

Levels of Organization (page 64)

3. Why do ecologists ask questions about events and organisms that range in complexity from an individual to the biosphere? _____

4. Complete the table about levels of organization.

LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION

Level	Definition
Species	
	A group of individuals that belong to the same species and live in the same area
Community	
Ecosystem	
	A group of ecosystems that have the same climate and dominant communities

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5. What is the highest level of organization that ecologists study? _____

Ecological Methods (page 65)

6. What are the three basic approaches scientists use to conduct modern ecological research?

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

7. Why might an ecologist set up an artificial environment in a laboratory?

8. Why are many ecological phenomena difficult to study? _____

9. Why do ecologists make models? _____

10. Is the following sentence true or false? An ecological model may consist of a mathematical formula. _____