**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Period\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_**

ECOLOGY UNIT VOCABULARY for FLASH CARDS

**Ecology: the study of the interactions between organisms and their environment.**

**Biotic: the living organisms in an environment**

**Abiotic: the non-living parts of the environment, or physical factors, such as soil, water, sunlight, and air**

**Organism: anything that can independently carry out life processes**

**Population: a group of individuals of the same species that live together in the same area at the same time.**

**Community: all the populations of different species that live and interact in an area.**

**Ecosystem: a community of organisms and its non-living (abiotic) environment.**

**Habitat: the environment where an organism lives**

**Niche: An organism’s way of life within an ecosystem, including its habitat, its food, its predators, and its competitors**

**Limiting factors: a needed resource that is in limited supply**

**Carrying capacity: the largest population that a given environment can support over a long period of time.**

**Competition: when two or more individuals in a population try to use the same resource, such as food, water, or sunlight.**

**Predation: when one organism eats another (the prey)**

**Symbiosis: a close, long-term relationship between two organisms**

**Parasitism: a symbiosis in which one organism benefits and the other is harmed**

**Mutualism: a symbiosis in which both organisms benefit**

**Commensalism: a symbiosis in which one organism benefits and the other is neither helped nor harmed**