1.12

Roles in ecosystems

Review:

Choose one of the following and create a pyramid:

1. Biomass for a local forest
2. Energy for a local forest
3. Numbers for a local forest

Notes:

Ecological Niche – includes everything it does to survive and reproduce. Each organism tends to have its own niche / role to play with in an ecosystem.

Competition occurs when two species have a similar niche.

Hawks Owls

Food

Shelter

Differences

Other examples of competitions:

Warbler <http://video.google.ca/videosearch?q=warbler&hl=en&emb=0&aq=f#q=warbler&hl=en&emb=0&aq=f&start=10>

Are small birds found though out the Atlantic coast. There are a number of different types that share similar niches but reduce competition by using different levels of the canopy in the forest.

Exotic species – Humans often by accident or on purpose introduce foreign species in local ecosystems

By accident

1. Travel
2. Visiting ships
3. Planes
4. Cars

On purpose

1. To produce better crops
2. To control other species
3. Exotic plants for homes and landscaping
4. For gaming purposes

Read about the Killer Bees and the Zebra muscles

1. Where were they introduced?
2. Why
3. What happened to the ecosystems?
4. Find two local examples of introduced species.