

The ABCs of Ecology

Before you can read, you need to learn your ABCs. "*ABCs of Ecology*"-- **A**biotic (non-living) factors, **B**iotic (living) factors, **C**ycles and **C**hange.

Examples of Abiotic Factors:

Soil
Geology
Topography
Temperature
Wind
Water Availability
Available Sunlight
Fire
Nutrient Levels
Natural Disturbance

Examples of Biotic Factors:

Producers (Algae, Cyanobacteria, Plants)
Consumers (herbivores, omnivores, carnivores, scavengers)
Decomposers (bacteria and fungi)
Interactions between biotic factors:

- Food webs
- Competition
- predator/prey relationships
- symbiosis/parasitism/mutualism

Examples of Cycles

Nutrient Cycles:

Carbon Cycle
Water Cycle
Nitrogen Cycle

Other Cycles:

Seasons
Day/Night
Tides
Life Cycles

Examples of Change

Sea Level Change
Continental Drift
Adaptations over time
Plant Succession
Climate Change
Weathering
Erosion
Human alterations to the natural functioning of ecosystems

Source: <http://www.fbes.org/Curriculum/curriculum.html>