**Biology Vocabulary Terms:**

**Ecology #2: Interactions in Ecosystems -Succession**

1. **Carrying Capacity** - The maximum number or individuals, of a particular species, that the environment can normally and consistently support.
2. **Commensalism** - One organism benefits and the other is neither harmed nor benefited.
3. **Competition** - Occurs when two organisms fight for the same limited resources.
4. **Competitive Exclusion** – Theory that states that no two species can occupy the same niche at the same time.
5. **Density Dependent Factor** -Environmental resistance that affects a population that has become overly crowded.
6. **Density Independent Factor** – Environmental resistance that affects a population regardless of population density.
7. **Ecological Equivalents** - Species that occupy similar niches but live in different geographical regions.
8. **Emigration**- The movement of individuals out of a population.
9. **Exponential Growth**- Occurs when a population size increases greatly over a period of time.
10. **Habitat** - All the biotic and abiotic factors in the area where an organism lives.
11. **Immigration** - The movement into a population from another population.
12. **Limiting Factor** - Any factor that has a great effect in keeping down the size of a population.
13. **Logistic Growth** – Population growth that is characterized by a period of slow growth, followed by a period of exertional growth, followed by another period of almost no growth.
14. **Mutualism** - A type of symbiotic relationship where both organisms benefit.
15. **Niche** - Composed of all the physical, chemical, and biological factors that a species needs to survive, stay healthy, and reproduce.
16. **Parasitism** - The type of symbiotic relationship where one organism benefits and the other is harmed.
17. **Pioneer Species** - The first organisms that live in an area that was previously uninhabited.
18. **Population Density** – Measure of the number of individuals living in a defined area.
19. **Population Dispersion (Distribution)** -Way in which individuals of a population are spread out over an area or volume.
20. **Predation** - The process by which one organism captures and feeds upon another organism.
21. **Primary Succession** – The development of an ecosystem in an area that was not inhabited before.
22. **Secondary Succession** – The re-establishment of a damaged ecosystem.
23. **Succession** - The sequence of biotic changes that regenerate a damaged community or create a community is a previously uninhabited area.
24. **Symbiosis** - A close ecological relationship between two or more organisms of different species that live in direct contact with one another.