

How do ecosystems work?



Guided reading

An ecosystem is a group of animals, plants and microorganisms that live together.



The group of each type of living thing is called a community, and the place that they live is called a habitat.

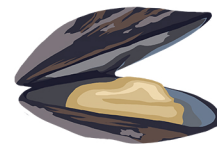
In an ecosystem, every animal, plant and microorganism is important and has a job to do



Ecosystems are finely balanced; the loss of a living thing, a change in temperature or a loss of water can affect everything living in it.

Some ecosystems, like coral reefs, rainforests and woodlands have lots of communities of living things. Others, like deserts and the polar regions have far fewer.

Questions



1. What is an ecosystem?

2. What changes can affect an ecosystem?

3. Which ecosystems have fewer living things?

