Unit 3 Vocabulary

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| Decomposition | Breakdown of a dead organism to its organic materials |
| Energy Pyramid | A graphical representation of the energy flow through a community |
| Radiant Energy | Energy transmitted in wave form (ex. Light energy) |
| Chemical Energy | Energy released or absorbed during a chemical reaction |
| Producers | Organisms that are capable of producing food through photosynthesis |
| Consumers | Organisms that rely on other organisms for their food supply |
| Adaptation | Any structure, behavior or process that allows an organism to better survive in its environment |
| Transport | The movement of a substance across a membrane |
| Excretion | The process of eliminating waste matter |
| Respiration | The process cells use to obtain energy from food (organic compounds) |
| Suckling | Feeding a baby mammal with milk from its mother |
| Taxis | The movement of a cell or organism in response to an external stimulus |
| Migration | Seasonal movement of animals from one region to another |
| Estivation | Prolonged dormancy of an animal during a hot or dry period |
| Hibernation | The resting state in which some animals pass the winter |
| Habituation | A decrease in response to a stimulus after repeated exposure |
| Imprinting | Coming to recognize an animal, person or thing as a parent or object of trust |
| Classical Conditioning | Learning by association |
| Trial and Error Learning | Learning by receiving a reward for a particular response |
| Behavior | The way that an animal acts in response to a particular stimulus |
| Stimulus | Something external that promotes an activity or response |
| Response | The result of a stimulus |
| Symbiosis | A relationship between two different organisms of different species |
| Mutualism | Symbiotic relationship in which both organisms benefit |
| Parasitism | A symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits while the other is harmed |
| Commensalism | A symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits without harming the other |
| Territorial Defense | When an animal or group of animals protects its territory from others |
| Phermones | Chemicals that communicate information among members of the same species |
| Courtship Dances | Behavior that males and females of a species carry out before mating |
| Predator | An organism that survives by preying on others |
| Prey | An organism being hunted to be eaten |
| Competition | A symbiotic relationship among organisms for resources |
| Biotic | The living or once-living components of an ecosystem |
| Abiotic | The non-living components of an ecosystem |
| Exponential Growth | Growth in which the rate of change is doubling (or more) each generation |
| Carrying Capacity | The maximum number of individuals in a population that can be supported in a given area |
| Bioaccumulation | The accumulation of toxic substances as they move up a food chain |