

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading**Section: Shaping Communities**

In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches each term.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. niche | a. one species eliminates another through competition for resources |
| _____ 2. kleptoparasitism | b. the entire range of conditions in which an organism could survive |
| _____ 3. competitive exclusion | c. a species that is critical to an ecosystem because it affects the survival of others |
| _____ 4. fundamental niche | d. the role an organism plays within the community |
| _____ 5. keystone species | e. biological interaction among individuals and species that use the same resources |
| _____ 6. realized niche | f. the stealing of food from another organism |
| _____ 7. competition | g. the actual niche a species occupies in a community |

Complete each statement by writing the correct term or phrase in the space provided.

8. A species almost never occupies its entire fundamental niche because of _____ with other species.
9. Five species of warbler can live in the same spruce tree without competing by _____.
10. Interactions between organisms and a high _____ help make an ecosystem more resilient.
11. When two species compete for the same resources, the better competitor will eventually eliminate the other species according to the principles of _____.

Directed Reading *continued*

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

12. How does a population of beavers affect a population of fish in the same community?

13. What are three ways that plants have adapted to compete for sunlight?

14. What is the reason that no two similar species can occupy the same niche?

15. Explain how a high biodiversity helps stabilize an ecosystem.
