

# Introduction to Terms

## Learning Objectives:

SE1 Explore cultural perspectives on sustainability

3. Select and integrate information from various human, print and electronic sources (government publications, community resources, and personally collected data) with respect to sustainability and the environment.

## Learning Event:

Students will build a vocabulary list for the unit.

*Set:* Select a few of the words from the vocabulary list. Ask the class what these words mean. Tell the students that by the end of the unit they will be able to define all of those words and more.

*Development:* Distribute the vocabulary list to the students. Students can work on this list as they progress through the unit or they may complete it as an assignment for background knowledge.

*Assessment:* Students can be assessed as a participation mark or they can be evaluated on the correct answers.

# Vocabulary



Sustainability:

Paradigm:

Biodiversity:

Energy Flow:

Toxin:

Biomagnification:

At-risk Species:

Producers:

# Vocabulary

Vocabulary continued:

Ecosystem:

Organism:

Food Chain:

Food Web:

Biomass

Introduced Species:

Vulnerable Species:



# Vocabulary

Population:

Biochemical Cycle:

Biotic:

Abiotic:



# Vocabulary Teacher Guide

Reference dictionary.com unless otherwise indicated.

**Sustainability:** living and working in ways that meet and integrate existing environmental, economic, and social needs without compromising the well-being of future generations. ([www.sustreport.org](http://www.sustreport.org))

**Paradigm:** a very general conception of the nature of scientific endeavour within which a given enquiry is undertaken. ([www.dictionary.reference.com](http://www.dictionary.reference.com))

*The way in which we view and relate to the world.*

**Biodiversity:** diversity among and within plant and animal species in an environment. ([www.dictionary.reference.com](http://www.dictionary.reference.com))

**Energy Flow:** the flow of energy through a biological food chain.

**Toxin:** A poisonous substance, especially one produced by a living organism. Toxins can be products or byproducts of ordinary metabolism, such as lactic acid, and they must be broken down or excreted before building up to dangerous levels. Toxins can facilitate survival, as with snake venom that kills or immobilizes prey, or cyanide produced by some plants as a defense against being eaten. Bacterial toxins can sometimes be neutralized with antitoxins.

**Biomagnification:** the process by which the concentration of toxic substances increases in each successive link in the food chain

**At-risk Species:** any species that is in danger of extinction or whose population is in danger of dying out.

**Producers:** A photosynthetic green plant or chemosynthetic bacterium, constituting the first trophic level in a food chain; an autotrophic organism.

## Vocabulary

**Ecosystem:** a system involving the interactions between a community of living organisms in a particular area and its nonliving environment

**Organism:** a form of life considered as an entity; an animal, plant, fungus, protistan, or moneran.

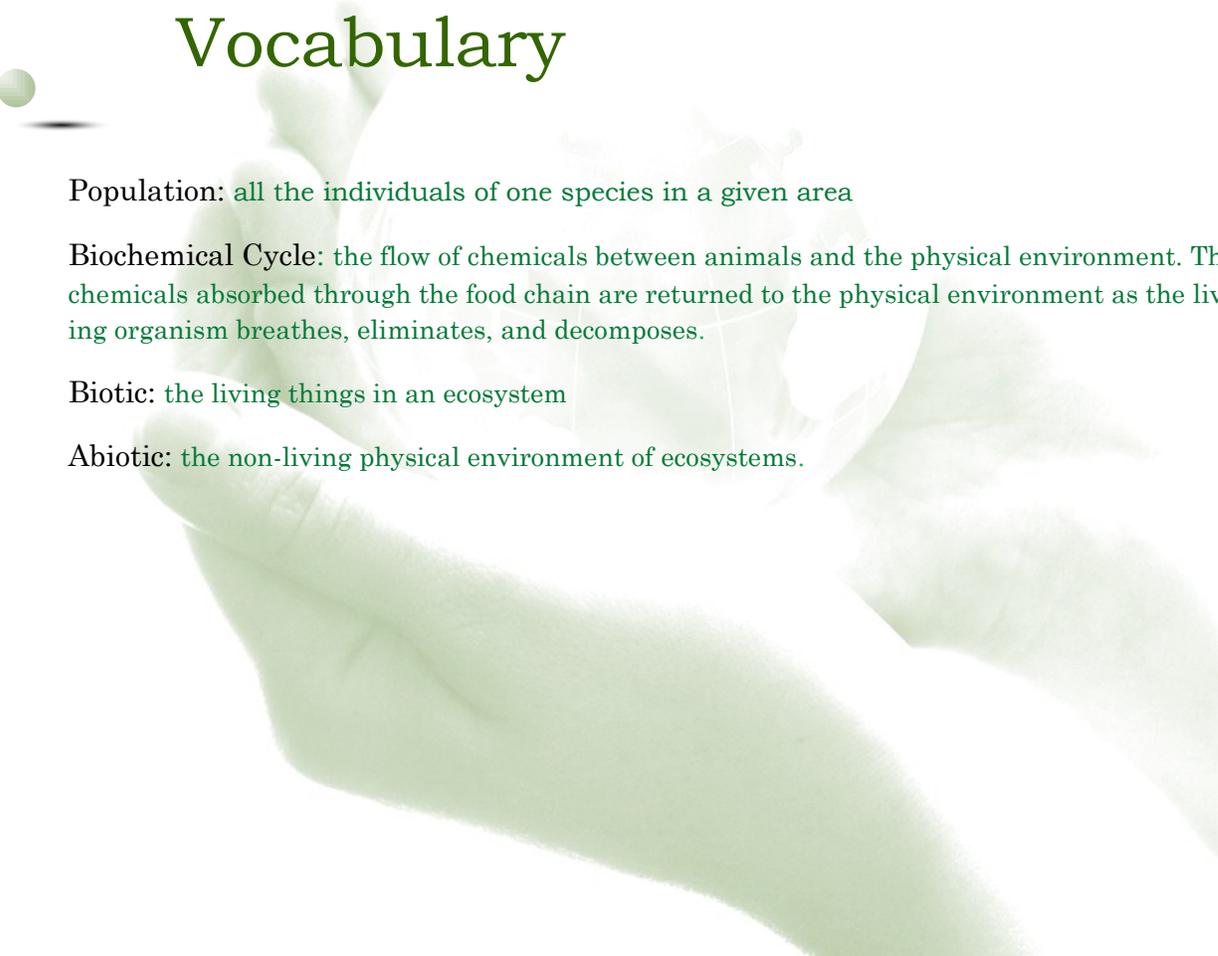
**Food Chain:** a series of organisms interrelated in their feeding habits, the smallest being fed upon by a larger one, which in turn feeds a still larger one, etc.

**Food Web:** a series of organisms related by predator-prey and consumer-resource interactions; the entirety of interrelated food chains in an ecological community.

**Biomass:** the amount of living matter in a given habitat, expressed either as the weight of organisms per unit area or as the volume of organisms per unit volume of habitat.

**Introduced Species:** is a species living outside its native distributional range, which has arrived there by human activity, either deliberate or accidental.

**Vulnerable Species:** a species that is like to become endangered unless the circumstances threatening its survival and reproduction improve. Vulnerability is mainly caused by habitat loss or destruction.



## Vocabulary

**Population:** all the individuals of one species in a given area

**Biochemical Cycle:** the flow of chemicals between animals and the physical environment. The chemicals absorbed through the food chain are returned to the physical environment as the living organism breathes, eliminates, and decomposes.

**Biotic:** the living things in an ecosystem

**Abiotic:** the non-living physical environment of ecosystems.