Name:_____ Fifth Grade Science
Date:_____ Chapter 3 Lesson 2

Relationship in Ecosystems
Study Guide

Directions: Match each vocabulary word with its definition.

1. Limiting factor: Anything that controls growth or survival of a population

2. carrying capacity: maximum population size that an ecosystem can support

3. Habitat: the place where a plant or animal lives and grows

4. Niche: role of an organism in an ecosystem

5. Symbiosis: relationship between two kinds of organisms over time

6. Mutualism: Relationship between two kinds of organisms that benefit both

7. Commensalism: relationship between two kinds of organisms that benefits one without harming the ot

8. parasitism :relationship in which one organism lives in or on another

1. Any resource necessary to the survival of the population in an ecosystem may become a(n) limiting factor.

2. A relationship between two organisms that benefits both organisms is called mutualism.

3. What is the special role an organism plays in a community? Niche

4. The greatest number of individuals that an ecosystem can support within a population is the carrying capacity.

5. Barnacles grow on the back of a whale. They gain a home and the whale is not hurt. This is an example of commensalism.

Directions: Fill in the blanks.

Carrying capacity	host	commensalism	parasitism
compete	symbiosis	exceeds	vegetation

Each ecosystem has certain limiting factors that restrict the size of its population. These include water, temperature, soil types, and the amount of vegetation available for food. The population that any area can support is its carrying capacity. When the population of an area exceeds its carrying capacity, some plants or animals begin to die off.

Living things compete for resources in an ecosystem. However, symbiosis limits competition as organisms develop relationships that allow them to live together. A symbiotic relationship that benefits only one organism but does no harm to the other is known as commensalism In parasitism, a parasite harms the host organism it lives on or in. In the relationship called mutualism, both organisms benefit.