

The Environment

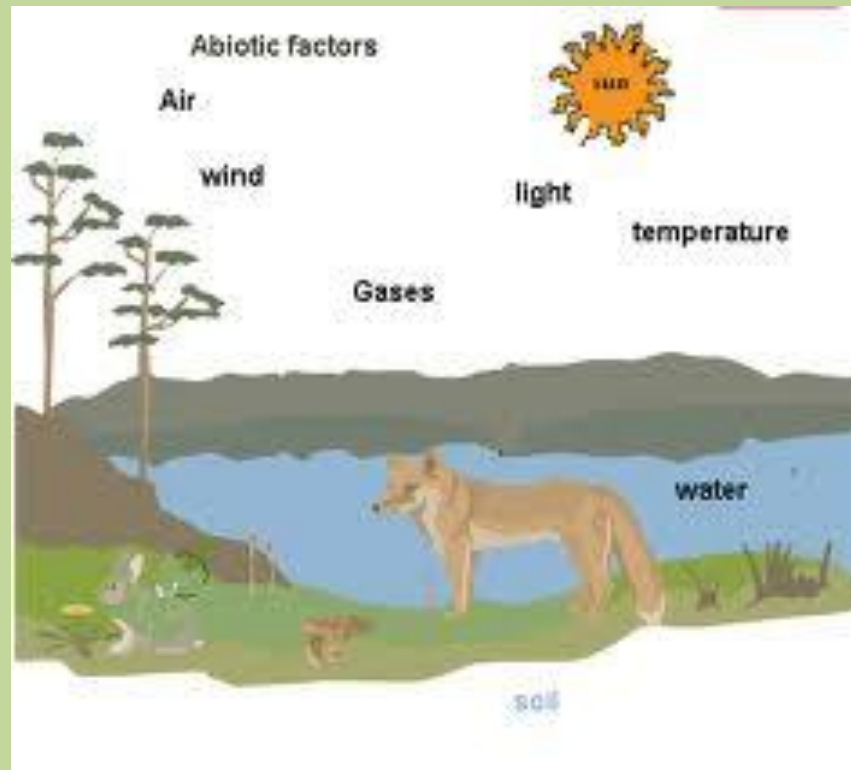
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A. The study of interactions among organisms and their environment is called ecology

B. Abiotic factors – nonliving parts of the environment

- a. Water is needed by all organisms for cell and life processes
- b. Light and temperature determine where plants and animals can live
- c. Air gases such as oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide are needed by most species
- d. Soil types determine what plants and animals can live in an area

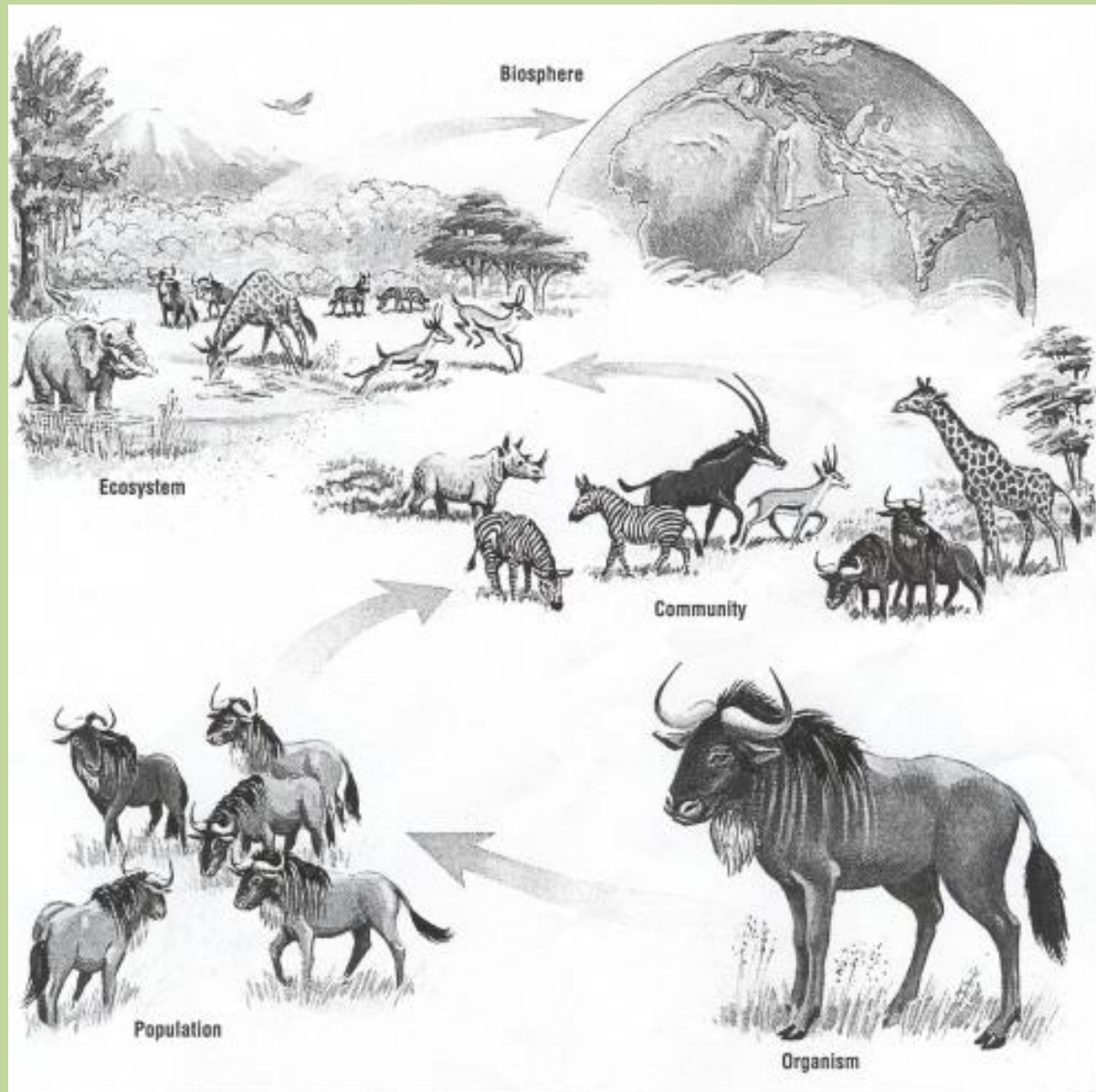
Abiotic factors



C. Biotic Factors – living or once living parts of the environment

- a. All members of one species living together form a population
- b. Communities are groups of populations that interact with each other in a given area
- c. The biotic community and its abiotic factors make up an Ecosystem
- d. Biomes are large areas containing several ecosystems
- e. The biosphere includes the top layer of Earth's crust, all waters, and the atmosphere

Biotic factors



- Biomes and the Biosphere are **similar** in that they both contain living organisms.
- They are **different** because Biomes are different regions of Earth and the Biosphere is the Earth