Interactions Among Living Organisms

8.2

A. Characteristics of populations

1. Size – number of individuals in a population

2. Number of individuals in a particular area is the density

3. Population spacing – how organisms are arranged in an area

a. Evenly spaced – consistent distance between organisms

b. Randomly spaced – individual location is independent of other individuals' locations

c. Clumped spacing – organisms group together

4. A biotic or abiotic factor that restricts the size of a population is called a limiting factor

5. Carrying capacity – the maximum population size that can live in an environment over time

6. Biotic potential – the size a population could reach if no limiting factors stopped its growth

B. Symbiosis – close interactions between species

1. When both species benefit, the relationship is termed mutualism

2. Commensalism is a form of symbiosis that helps one species but has no effect on the other

3. When one species is harmed and the other benefits, the symbiosis is termed parasitism

4. Predation – occurs when one species hunts, kills and eats another

5. Habitats are where an organism lives

6. Niche – an organism's function in its ecosystem