

Keyword Chart – Components of an Ecosystem



advocate	angler	aquatic plant	brackish	bulbils	cesspool
commerce	developer	ecological significance	ecosystem	economic importance	emersed
endangered species	floating-leaved	habitat	herbivore	invasive	keystone species
mangrove	native	non-native	noxious weed	poached	priority
positive quality (pro) and negative quality (con)	regulation	rhizome	scavenge	spores	stolon
submersed	suburban	turion	terrestrial	tuberous	weed



Keyword Definitions – Components of an Ecosystem



1. **advocate** – n. person who defends and supports a cause or the interest of others.
2. **angler** – n. person who fishes.
3. **aquatic plant** – n. plants that grow in water or wet areas; plants that must complete part or all of their life cycle in or near the water (aquatic macrophytes).
4. **brackish** – adj. somewhat salty water.
5. **bulbils** – n. small bulb-like structure that grows on flower stalks (such as the onion).
6. **cesspool** – n. an underground reservoir for liquid waste.
7. **commerce** – n. buying and selling of goods or services on a large scale.
8. **developer** – n. person who develops land.
9. **ecological significance** – n. the extent to which something affects its surrounding environment; its importance
10. **ecosystem** – n. a community of living organisms (plants, animals, microorganisms, etc.) all of which interact among themselves and the environment where they live (on land, in the soil or in the water, etc.). They are often defined by the plants and animals living within the community (a marsh, a wetland or a coral reef, for example). Ecosystems do not always have distinct boundaries; they can be as small as a mud puddle or as large as a continent or even the earth itself.
11. **economic importance** – n. the amount of monetary value something adds to an economy.
12. **emersed** – adj. plants rooted in shallow water with much of the vegetative growth above the water.
13. **endangered species** – n. a population of organisms which is at risk of becoming extinct because it is either few in numbers, or threatened by changing environmental conditions or predators.
14. **floating-leaved** – n. a plant that may or may not be anchored to the sediment, but has leaves that float on the surface of water.
15. **habitat** – n. the locality or external environment in which a plant lives.
16. **herbivore** – n. an animal that feeds on plants
- invasive species** – a non-native species (to an ecosystem) that is causing or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
17. **keystone species** – n. a species that plays a critical role in maintaining the structure and biological processes that occur within an ecological community (ecosystem). It helps to determine the types and numbers of other species in the community.
18. **mangrove** – n. salt-tolerant tree that grows along salty coastal habitats in the tropics and subtropics.
19. **native** – n. adj. a species that occurs naturally in a geographic region or area; it has not been introduced by humans (intentionally or unintentionally).
20. **negative quality (con)** – n. a characteristic of a plant, animal or human that is considered to be harmful or “not good” for its surroundings.
21. **non-native** – n. adj. a species that is present in a region outside its original, historic range due to intentional or unintentional introduction; not necessarily invasive. Also referred to as non-indigenous or exotic. The introduction to a new area is often the result of human activity.
22. **noxious weed** – n. an invasive plant that is harmful to agricultural production, ecosystems, or humans.
23. **poach** – v. to illegally take, hunt, or catch an animal (or plant) without permission.
24. **priority** – n. something regarded as more important than another.
25. **positive quality (pro)** – n. a characteristic of a plant, animal or human that is considered to be helpful or “good” for its surroundings.
26. **regulation** – n. a rule or order issued by a government agency.
27. **rhizome** – n. an underground horizontal root-like stem. It sends out leaves and shoots from its upper surface and roots from its lower surface.
28. **scavenge** – v. to feed on decaying matter or to search through discarded items.
29. **spores** – n. a one-celled reproductive body that can grow into a new organism without uniting with another cell. Examples are bacteria, fungi, algae, and seedless plants such as ferns. Many plant spores are dispersed by the wind.
30. **stolon** – n. a slender stem growing along ground; a horizontally growing stem.
31. **submersed** – adj. plants that grow below the surface of the water.
32. **suburban** – adj. residential area near a city.
33. **turion** – n. a bud produced by many aquatic plants; it detaches from the parent plant and remains dormant (often buried in sediments) until the following spring or sometimes for many years before sprouting.
34. **terrestrial** – adj. a plant living or grown on land; not aquatic.
35. **tuberous** – adj. forming, bearing, or resembling a tuber or tubers on a plant (example: a tuberous root).
36. **weed** – n. any plant that crowds out a cultivated and desired plant.

