

GCSE Geography –Living World

Vocabulary List

Abiotic	Non-living part of an ecosystem e.g. rock, air, water.
Antarctic Treaty	Rules to protect Antarctica such as no military activity or no one can claim ownership of it.
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	Protected area of Alaska where development is not allowed.
Biodiversity	Variety of living things in a place.
Biomass	Total mass of all living organic matter in kg/m ²
Biotic	Living part of an ecosystem e.g. leaves, worm, bird
Boreal trees	Coniferous trees like pine.
Buttress Roots	Wide base to tall trees to hold them up.
Canopy	Main area of branches and leaves in a tree. Second highest layer in a rainforest.
Caribou	reindeer
Carnivore	Animal that eats other animals
Conservation	preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment.
Consumer	Eat energy as food
Debt reduction	Allowing countries off payments they owe in return for protecting the environment.
Deciduous forest	Found in temperate regions. Trees lose their leaves in Autumn.
Decomposer	Organisms that use waste/dead material for food.
Deforestation	Humans destroying forests
Drip tip	Pointy end to leaves so water drains away easily.
Ecosystem	natural systems where the living parts interact with the non-living parts.
Ecotourism	Types of holidays that have a lower impact on local people and the environment
Emergent layer	Highest layer in a tropical rainforest
Epiphyte	"Air plant" that lives on the branches of a tree.
Food chain	Simple diagram that shows the movement of energy through an ecosystem
Food web	Complex diagram that shows what eats what and the many ways energy can move through an ecosystem.
Habitat	Environment in which an organism lives.
Herbivore	Animal that only eats plants
Interdependence	When different parts of the environment rely on each other.
International Agreements	Rules applied globally to stop a harmful activity like illegal logging.
Latosol	Soil found in rainforests.
Litter	Dead organic matter in an ecosystem e.g. leaves on a forest floor.

Nutrient Cycling	Movement of useful chemicals around the environment.
Omnivore	Animal that eats both plants and animals.
Permafrost	Permanently frozen ground.
Photosynthesis	Methods used by plants to produce food. They capture sunlight and use it to combine carbon dioxide and water to make sugars and oxygen.
Polar Regions	Areas around the North and South Pole
Pollination	When flowers are fertilised so seeds grow.
Producer	Produce food themselves often using sunlight. E.g. photosynthesis
Selective logging	Taking useful trees from a forest without damaging others.
Shrub Layer	Bottom layer of a rainforest. Has fallen branches, leaves and small plants that like the shade.
Solifluction	Mudflows where frozen ground has melted.
Taiga	Forest of coniferous trees found in Northern Areas of the world such as Russia and Canada.
Trophic level	Stage in a food web
Tundra	Biome found in the Arctic Circle.
Under canopy	3rd layer down in a rainforest. Small and young trees.