

→ An ecosystem (an ecological system) is a functional unit - comprising all the organisms in a particular place interacting with one another and with their physical environment and interconnected by an ongoing flow of energy and a cycling of materials.

→ The concept of an ecosystem was first formally proposed by the English botanist Arthur Tansley in 1935.

→ In the broadest sense, "an ecosystem is the interacting system made up of all the living and nonliving objects in a physically defined space".

→ Ecosystems are complex, biotically organized, self-organizing and self-regulated systems.

→ An ecosystem is an open system in the sense that energy and matter are exchanged with their surroundings.

NOTES

AUGUST '21						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Ecology SATURDAY 31

- 1. **Ecology** is the scientific study of the relationship between organisms and their environment. Their relationship are complex, varied and hierarchical.
- 2. The word ecology was first used by German biologist Ernst Haeckel in 1869.
- 3. It is derived from the Greek words, 'oikos' meaning house, are dwelling place) and 'logos' (meaning the study of).

3. Haeckel defined ecology as the study of the natural environment (relating the relation of organisms to one another) and to their surroundings.

4. Ecology describes the relationships between living organisms and their environments, the interaction of organisms with each other and the pattern and cause of their abundance and distribution of organisms in nature.

→ Ecologists ecology data with the **flow** of energy and cycling of nutrients among organisms within a community and the environment.

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