

14.1 Habitat And Niche

KEY CONCEPT

Every organism has a **habitat** and a **niche**.



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▶ A habitat differs from a niche.

- A **habitat** is all aspects of the area in which an organism lives.
 - biotic factors
 - abiotic factors
- An **ecological niche** includes all of the factors that a species needs to survive, stay healthy, and reproduce.
 - food
 - abiotic conditions
 - behavior



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- ▶ **Resource availability gives structure to a community.**
- **Competitive Exclusion** is a principle that states:
 - that when 2 species are competing for the same resources, one species will be better adapted to the niche, and the other will be pushed to another niche or go extinct.

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- Two other results of competitive exclusion: .
 - **Niche partitioning** - The niche will be divided.
 - Evolutionary Response or **Divergent Evolution** - The two species will further diverge.



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- **Ecological equivalents** are species that occupy similar niches but live in different geographical regions.

