

## Warm-Up: Ecologists Study Relationships

### KEY CONCEPT

Ecology is the study of the relationships among organisms and their environment.

### VOCABULARY

ecology	ecosystem
community	biome

**MAIN IDEA:** Ecologists study environments at different levels of organization. Complete the table by filling in the blanks with the name of each level of organization studied by ecologists and writing their description. Choose from the following terms: *ecosystem, population, organism, biome, community*.

Level	Description	Example
1.		A monkey
2.		Monkeys living in a forest
3.		Monkeys, birds, frogs, and plants that live together in a forest
4.		A decaying log in a forest
5.		Warm, moist regions near Earth's equator where tropical forests thrive

**MAIN IDEA:** Ecological research methods include observation, experimentation, and modeling.

**Fill in the blank with the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.**

6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the act of carefully watching something over time.

7.A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ survey makes use of evidence, such as the footprints left behind by animal, to follow animals that are difficult to track.

8.An experiment conducted in the \_\_\_\_\_ takes place indoors and does not always reflect all of the interactions that occur in nature.

9.An experiment conducted in the \_\_\_\_\_ takes place where an animal typically lives.

10. A scientist who studies an organism by using computers and mathematical data to simulate changes in its ecosystem uses a \_\_\_\_\_ instead of an experiment.

## Vocabulary Check

11. \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of the interactions among living things, and between living things and their environment.

12. A \_\_\_\_\_ contains both communities and ecosystems.