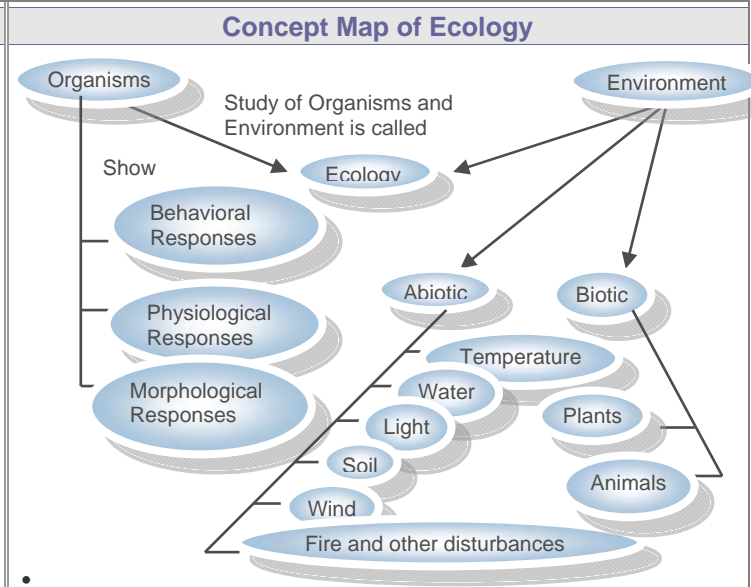
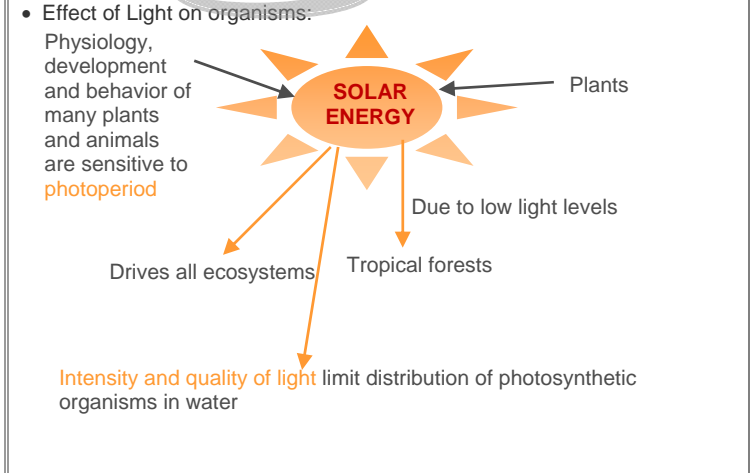
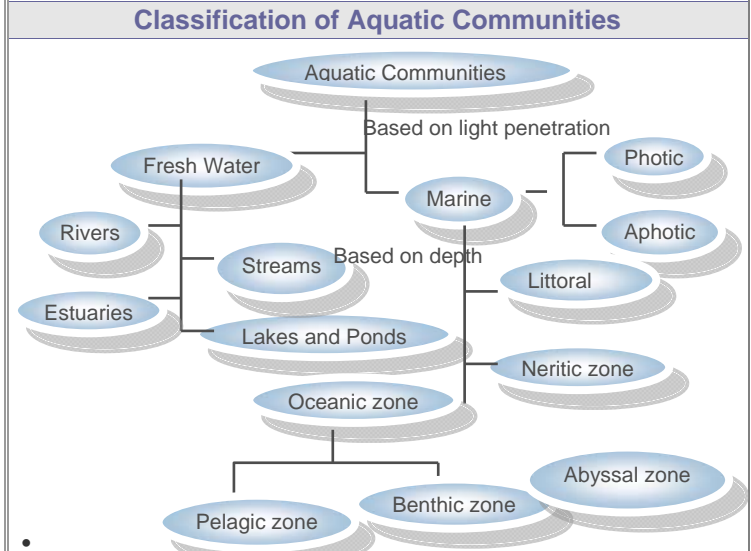


20: Introduction to Ecology and the Biosphere

Key Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abiotic: Pertaining to the non-living factors which are physical and chemical components. • Abyssal zone: The portion of the ocean floor where light does not penetrate and where temperatures are cold and pressures intense. • Acclimation: Physiological adjustment to a change in an environmental factor. • Benthic zone: The bottom surfaces of the ocean. • Biomes: The world's major communities classified according to the predominant vegetation and characterized by adaptations of organisms to that particular environment. • Biosphere: The entire portion of the earth that is inhabited by life. The sum of all the planet's ecosystems. • Biotic: Pertaining to the living organisms in the environment. • Chaparral: Dense spring shrubs with tough ever green leaves. • Community: All the organisms that inhabit a particular area. An assemblage of populations of different species living close enough together for potential interaction. • Conformers: They cannot regulate their internal environment which varies to match the external environment. • Consumer: An organism in an ecosystem that lives by eating other organisms. • Decomposers: Saprophytic fungi and bacteria that absorb nutrients from non-living organic material such as corpses, fallen plant material and the waste of living organism and convert them into inorganic forms. • Ecosystem: A level of ecological study that includes all the organisms in a given area along with the abiotic factors with which they interact. A community and its physical environment. • Endotherms: Animals that use metabolic energy to maintain a constant body temperature. • Estuaries: The area at which a fresh water river or stream meets the ocean • Habitat: The immediate environment of a living organism. • Intertidal zone: The shallow zone of the ocean where land meets water. Also called the littoral zone. • Lianas: Vines growing rapidly when an opening does occur in the tropical rain forest. • Neritic zone: The shallow regions of the ocean overlying the continental shelves. • Niche: The sum total of an organism's utilization of the biotic and abiotic resources of its environment. • Pelagic zone: The area of the ocean past the continental shelf, with areas of open water often reaching to very great depths. • Permafrost: Continuously frozen ground that prevents roots of plants from penetrating very far into the soils. Found in arctic tundra region. • Photic zone: The narrow top slice of the ocean where light penetrates sufficiently for photosynthesis to occur. • Population: A group of individuals in a particular geographic area that belong to the same species. • Producers: They are primarily green plants that bring energy into the system by capturing sunlight. • Regulators: They are able to maintain constant internal conditions when the external environment changes. • Savanna: It is the tropical or semitropical grassland with scattered individual trees. • Taiga: It is the coniferous or boreal forest found at higher elevations in more temperate latitudes. • Temperature: A measure of the intensity of heat in degrees reflecting the average kinetic energy of the molecules. • Tundra: A biome at the northernmost limits of plant growth and at high altitudes, where plant forms are limited to low shrubby or matlike vegetation.



- ### Three Distinct Mechanisms Responding to Changing Environments
1. Behavioral
 2. Physiological
 3. Morphological



How to Use This Cheat Sheet: These are the keys related this topic. Try to read through it carefully twice then recite it out on a blank sheet of paper. Review it again before the exams.