

# Tiếng Anh chuyên ngành thổ nhưỡng và môi trường đất

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*Tài liệu trong Thư viện điện tử ĐH Khoa học Tự nhiên có thể được sử dụng cho mục đích học tập và nghiên cứu cá nhân. Nghiêm cấm mọi hình thức sao chép, in ấn phục vụ các mục đích khác nếu không được sự chấp thuận của nhà xuất bản và tác giả.*

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# Unit 1

## Types of species in ecosystems

### A. Reading

\* Warm-up Activities

- How important are species in ecosystems?
- How many kinds of species do you know?

One way to look at an ecosystem's species from a human standpoint is to divide them into four types:

- Native species, which normally live and thrive in a particular ecosystem.
- Immigrant, or alien species, which migrate into an ecosystem or which are deliberately or accidentally introduced into an ecosystem by humans. Some of these species are beneficial to humans, while others can take over and eliminate many native species.
- Indicator species, which serve as early warnings that a community or an ecosystem is being damaged. For example, the present decline of migratory, insect-eating songbirds in North America indicates that their summer habitats there and their winter habitats in the tropical forests of Latin America and the Caribbean are rapidly disappearing.
- Keystone species affect many other organisms in an ecosystem. For example, in tropical forests, various species of bees, bats, and humming - birds play keystone roles in pollinating flowering plants, dispersing seed, or both. Some keystone species, such as the alligator, the wolf, the leopard, the lion, the giant anteater, and the giant armadillo, are top predators that exert a stabilizing effect on their ecosystems by feeding on and regulating the populations of certain species. The loss of a keystone species can lead to population crashes and extinctions of other species that depend on it for certain services - a ripple or domino effect that spreads throughout an ecosystem. According to biologist E.O.Wilson, *"The loss of a keystone species is like a drill accidentally striking a power line. It causes lights to go out all over"*.

(Taken from *"Sustaining the Earth"* by Tyler Miller, G)

### I. Omprehension questions

Answer the following questions

1. How are species in an ecosystem classified?

2. What is the other name of immigrant species?
  
3. How are alien species brought into a new ecosystem?
  
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of alien species?
  
5. What is the role of indicator species?
  
6. Name some keystone species.
  
7. How important are the top predators?
  
8. What will happen if there is a loss of a keystone species? What does biologist E.O. Wilson think about this problem?

## **II. True - False sentences**

Decide whether the following statements are true "T", false "F" or there's no information given "N" according to the text. Correct the false statements.

1. .... Immigrant species are also called alien species.
2. .... Indicator species can warn others of the danger of their ecosystems.
3. .... Keystone species are least important in their ecosystems.
4. .... Keystone species have the largest population in ecosystems.
5. .... In general, all species are equally essential in ecosystems.
6. .... Bees and bats can't disperse seed and neither can ants and humming birds.
7. .... Many other organisms in an ecosystem are affected by keystone species.

Increasing your vocabulary





for	to	reptile	ecosystems	endangere d
is	placed	animal	of	and
birds	habitats	during	comeback	where

The American alligator, North America's largest (1) ....., has no natural predator except (2) ..... . Hunters once killed large numbers of these animals for their exotic (3) ..... and for the supple belly (4) ..... used to make items such as shoes, belts and pocketbooks. People also considered (5) ..... to be useless, dangerous vermin and hunted them for sport or out of hatred. Between 1950 (6) ..... 1960 hunters wiped out 90% of the alligators in Louisiana, and by the 1960s the alligator population in the Florida Everglades was also near extinction.

People who say "So what?" are overlooking the alligator's keystone role in subtropical wetland (7) ..... such as Florida's Everglades. Alligators dig deep depressions, or "gator holes", which collect fresh water (8) ..... dry spells. These holes are refuges for aquatic life and supply fresh water and food (9) ..... birds and other animals. Large alligator nesting mounds also serve as nest sites for herons and egrets.

In 1967, the U.S. government (10) ..... the American alligator on the endangered species list. Protected from hunters, the alligator population had made a strong (11) ..... in many areas by 1975. The problem (12) ..... that people are invading the alligator's natural (13) ..... And while the gator's diet consists mainly (14) ..... snails, sick fish, ducks, raccoons and turtles, a pet or a person who falls into or swims in a canal, a pond, or some other areas (15)..... a gator lives is subject to attack.

(Taken from "*Sustaining the Earth*" by Tyler Miller, G)

### C. FURTHER PRACTICE

*Read the passage through to find out what is about.*

The balance of nature

All the different plants and animals in a natural community are in a state of balance. This balance is achieved by the plants and animals interacting with each other and with their non-living surroundings. An example of a natural community is a woodland, and a woodland is usually dominated by a particular species of plant, such as the oak tree in an oak wood. The oak tree in this example is therefore called the dominant species but there are also many other types of plants, from brambles, bushes and small trees to mosses, lichens and algae growing on tree trunks and rocks.

The plants of a community are the producers: they use carbon dioxide, oxygen, water and nitrogen to build up their tissues using energy in the form of sunlight. The plant tissues form

food for the plant-eating animals (herbivores) which are in turn eaten by the flesh-eating animals (carnivores). Thus, plants produce the basic food supply for all the animals of the community. The animals themselves are the consumers, and are either herbivores or carnivores.

Examples of herbivores in a woodland community are rabbits, deer, mice and snails, and insects such as aphids and caterpillars. The herbivores are sometimes eaten by the carnivores. Woodland carnivores are of all sizes, from insects such as beetles and lacewings to animals such as owls, shrews and foxes. Some carnivores feed on herbivores and some feed on the smaller carnivores, while some feed on both: a tawny owl will eat beetles and shrews as well as voles and mice. These food relationships between the different members of the community are known as food chains or food webs. All food chains start with plants. The links of the chain are formed by the herbivores that eat the plants and the carnivores that feed on the herbivores. There are more organisms at the base of a food chain than at the top; for example, there are many more green plants than carnivores in a community.

Another important section of the community is made up of the decomposers. They include the bacteria and fungi that live in the soil and feed on dead animals and plants. By doing this they break down the tissues of the dead organisms and release mineral salts into the soil.

(Taken from "*Progress to First Certificate*" by Leo Jones)

Exercise:

Match the words to their definitions below:

natural community	species	links
woodland	tissues	organisms
dominated	flesh	decomposers

meat

living things

have the most important position

area covered with growing trees

plants and animals living in one place

one ring in a chain

type of plant or animal

material making up a living thing

organisms that feed on dead tissues

Match the words to their appropriate meanings below:

bramble	trunk	lacewing
moss	snail	shrew