

Ecosystem

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CONTENT

- What is an Ecosystem?
- Types of Ecosystem
- Terrestrial
- Aquatic
- Structure of the Ecosystem
- Biotic Components
- Abiotic Components
- Functions

Ecosystem Definition

- *“An ecosystem is defined as a community of lifeforms in concurrence with non-living components, interacting with each other.”*

What is an Ecosystem

- The ecosystem is the structural and functional unit of ecology where the living organisms interact with each other and the surrounding environment. In other words, an ecosystem is a chain of interactions between organisms and their environment. The term “Ecosystem” was first coined by A.G. Tansley, an English botanist, in 1935.

Types of Ecosystem

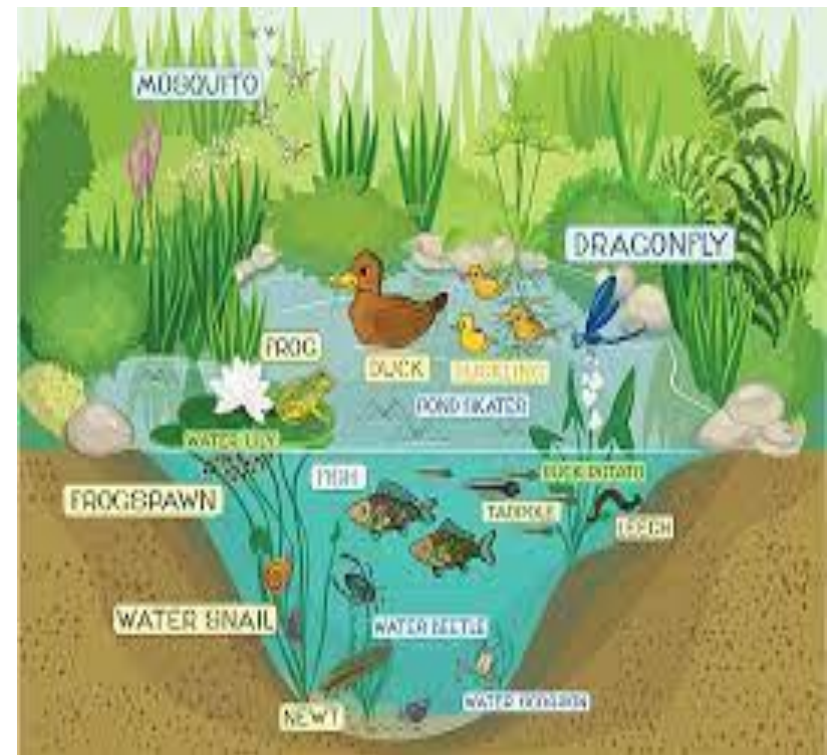
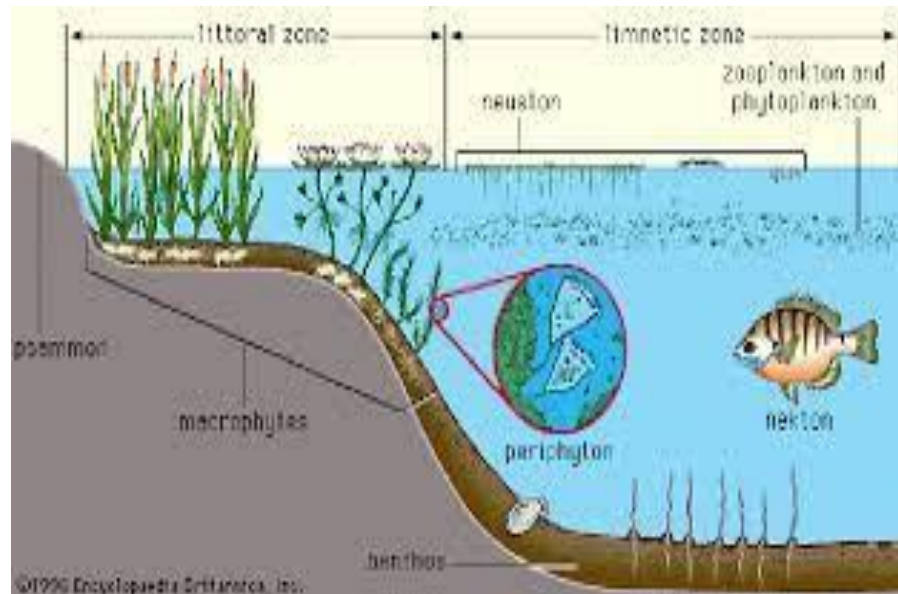
- An ecosystem can be as small as an oasis in a desert, or as big as an ocean, spanning thousands of miles. There are two types of ecosystem:
- Terrestrial Ecosystem
- Aquatic Ecosystem

Terrestrial Ecosystems

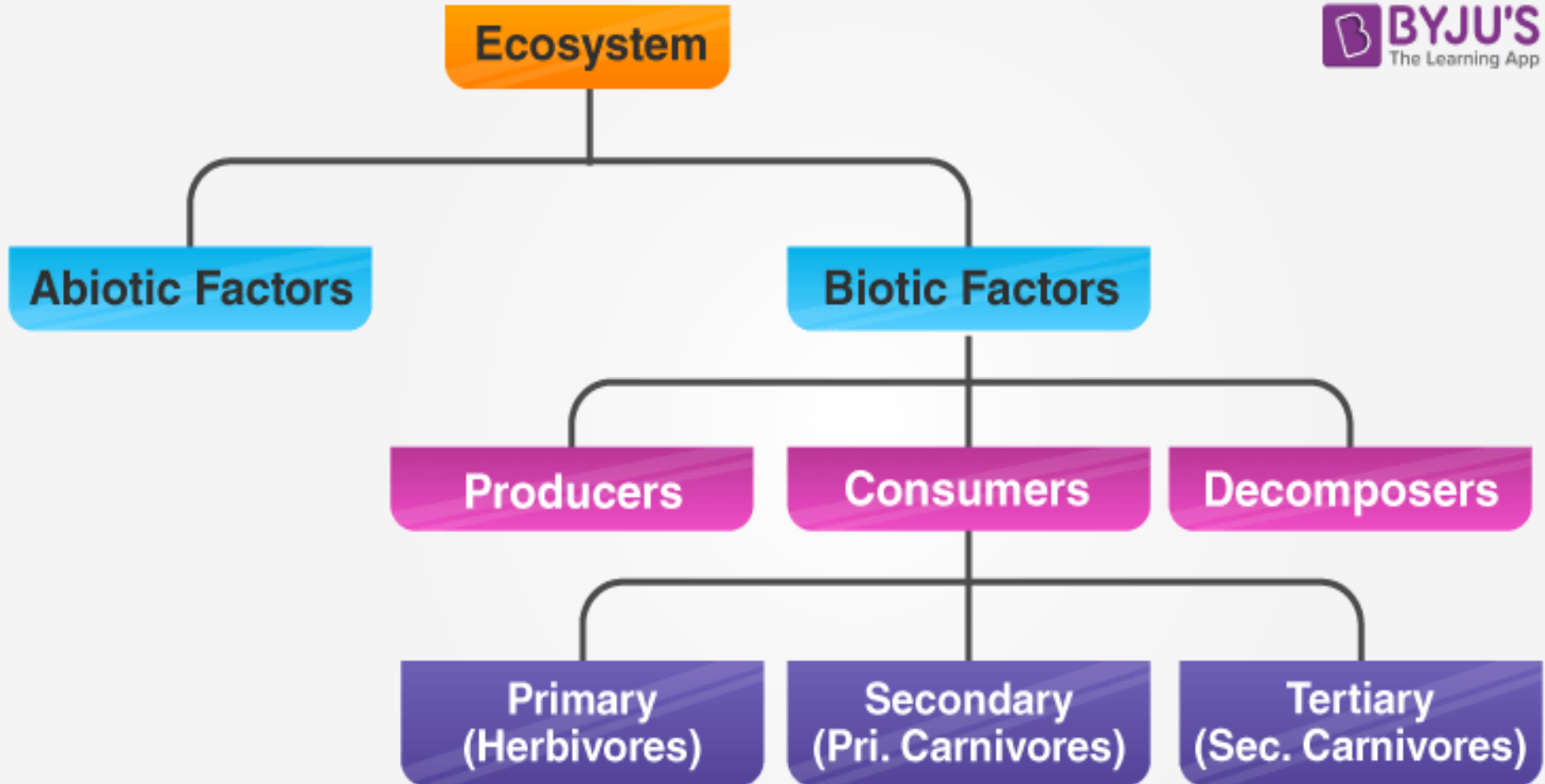
- Terrestrial ecosystems are exclusively land-based ecosystems. There are different types of terrestrial ecosystems distributed around various geological zones. They are as follows:
- Forest Ecosystems
- Grassland Ecosystems
- Tundra Ecosystems
- Desert Ecosystem

Aquatic Ecosystem

- Aquatic ecosystem are ecosystems present in a body of water. These can be further divided into two types, namely:
- Freshwater Ecosystem
- Marine Ecosystem



Structure of the Ecosystem



Functions of Ecosystem

the functional units of an ecosystem or functional components that work together in an ecosystem are:

Productivity – It refers to the rate of biomass production.

Energy flow – It is the sequential process through which energy flows from one trophic level to another. The energy captured from the sun flows from producers to consumers and then to decomposers and finally back to the environment.

Decomposition – It is the process of breakdown of dead organic material. The top-soil is the major site for decomposition.

Nutrient cycling – In an ecosystem nutrients are consumed and recycled back in various forms for the utilisation by various organisms.



Thank You!