Roles in Ecosystems

* Every organism has its own spot in an ecosystem.
* The physical place an organism lives is called its **HABITAT**. You can think of it like an “address”.
* Where an organism is in the food chain, where it breeds, the time of day it is active, and how it gets food all make up an organisms **NICHE**. You can think of like an organisms “job”.

Species Interactions

* There are 7 main types of species interactions that can occur between organisms when they live in the same ecosystem.

1. **NEUTRALISM**

* happens when two organisms live in the same ecosystem but have no interaction at all.
* Examples: a dolphin & seaweed, a tree & dandelion

1. **PREDATION**

* **PREDATION** is the act of one organism (**predator**) killing and eating another organism (**prey**).
* Examples: cat & mouse, frog & insect, owl & squirrel, tiger & zebra

1. **COMPETITION**

* **COMPETITION** is a relationship between species in which they both attempt to get the same limited resource.
* Examples: plants trying to get the same sunlight, frogs and salamanders trying to get the same insects.

1. **PARASITISM**

* **PARASITISM** is a relationship where one organism (**parasite**) lives in or on another organism (**host**) harming it in a minor way.
* Examples: fleas on a cat, ticks on a deer, tapeworms, lice, ringworms

1. **MUTUALISM**

* **MUTUALISM** is a relationship between two species that is cooperative, meaning they both benefit.
* Examples: humans and their intestinal bacteria, insects pollinating flowers

1. **COMMENSALISM**

* **COMMENSALISM** is a relationship between two species where one species benefits and the other is neither harmed or helped.
* Examples: remoras & sharks, birds & elephants

1. **INHIBITION**