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Crash Course - ECOLOGY

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Crash Course Ecology #4: Community Ecology

Name: _____ Date: _____

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- _____ is the driving force behind competition for limited resources in ecological communities.
- The interactions between species within a habitat are studied in the field of _____.
- _____ is a phenomenon where one species eliminates another due to competition for the same resources.
- The _____ states that two species competing for the same resources cannot coexist in the same habitat indefinitely.
- The total set of resources a species uses in its environment is called its _____.
- The actual role a species plays in its environment due to competition is known as its _____ niche.
- _____ occurs when similar species divide up resources to reduce competition and allow coexistence.
- The process by which natural selection favors traits that reduce competition is called _____.
- A relationship in which both species benefit is called _____.
- A relationship where one species benefits and the other is unaffected is called _____.
- The idea that species evolve different traits to avoid competition is demonstrated in the concept of _____ displacement.
- An example of _____ mutualism is the relationship between termites and the microorganisms in their guts.
- A sunflower and a weed competing for soil nutrients are engaged in _____ competition.
- The size a population can reach is limited by _____ factors like food, water, or space.
- Sharks competing for food but not water in the ocean shows that not all _____ are limiting.

Crash Course Ecology #4: Community Ecology KEY

- Evolution** is the driving force behind competition for limited resources in ecological communities.
- The interactions between species within a habitat are studied in the field of **community ecology**.
- Competitive exclusion** is a phenomenon where one species eliminates another due to competition for the same resources.
- The **Competitive Exclusion Principle** states that two species competing for the same resources cannot coexist in the same habitat indefinitely.
- The total set of resources a species uses in its environment is called its **ecological niche**.
- The actual role a species plays in its environment due to competition is known as its **realized niche**.
- Resource partitioning** occurs when similar species divide up resources to reduce competition and allow coexistence.
- The process by which natural selection favors traits that reduce competition is called **character displacement**.
- A relationship in which both species benefit is called **mutualism**.
- A relationship where one species benefits and the other is unaffected is called **commensalism**.
- The idea that species evolve different traits to avoid competition is demonstrated in the concept of **character displacement**.
- An example of **obligate mutualism** is the relationship between termites and the microorganisms in their guts.
- A sunflower and a weed competing for soil nutrients are engaged in **interspecific** competition.
- The size a population can reach is limited by **limiting** factors like food, water, or space.
- Sharks competing for food but not water in the ocean shows that not all **resources** are limiting.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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