



An **organism** is one individual on its own (or with just its family unit.)

"Chet the buffalo lived on the prairie."

A **population** is a group of organisms of the same **species** living in the same **ecosystem**.

"The herd of buffalo (that Chet was a part of) had lived in the prairie for centuries."

A **community** is all the different **populations** of organisms that live in the same **ecosystem**.

"Chet knew many of the prairie organisms: wolves, grasses, bugs, pond scum, fungus. Each had a role to play."

An **ecosystem** is all the **biotic factors** (organisms) and **abiotic factors** (non-living) in an area interacting with each other.

"The creatures of the prairie lived in harmony with the Earth itself. There was the sun, the soil, the rocks, warm wind, and cool water. All were connected. How could the grasses grow without the soil? How could the soil keep from blowing away without the grasses?"