

# Biotic and Abiotic Factors

• **Biotic factors:** Parts of an ecosystem that are living or used to be living

• **Abiotic factors:** Parts of an ecosystem that have never been living

"opposite"



Annette L. Olson/NBII

# Learn Biology: Ecosystem Definition & Biotic Factors vs. Abiotic Factors

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-wpbhnom70>



# RECAP

- Name and describe the **ecological levels** from smallest to largest.
- Use and define the following terms: **geographic, climate, abiotic, biotic**

**Individual**: biotic

**Population**: same type, 1 **species** in a **geographic area**), **biotic**

**Community**: all the **populations** in a **geographic area**, **biotic**

**Ecosystem**: **community** and the physical (**abiotic**) environment, example – African Savannah

**Community**: all the **populations** in a **geographic area, biotic**

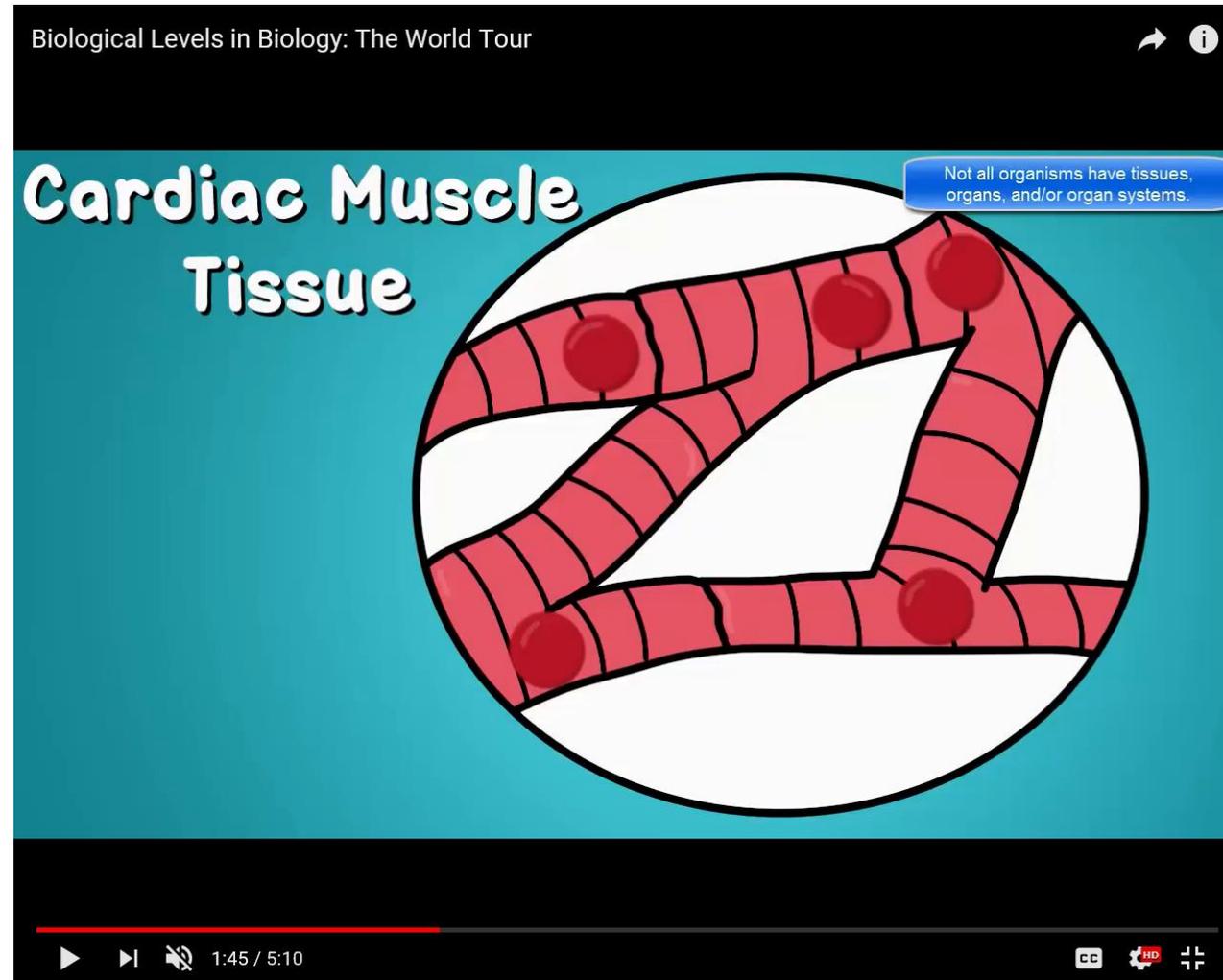
**Ecosystem**: **community (biotic)** and the physical **(abiotic)** environment, example – African Savannah

**Biome**: general type of environment made up of **ecosystems**, example – grasslands

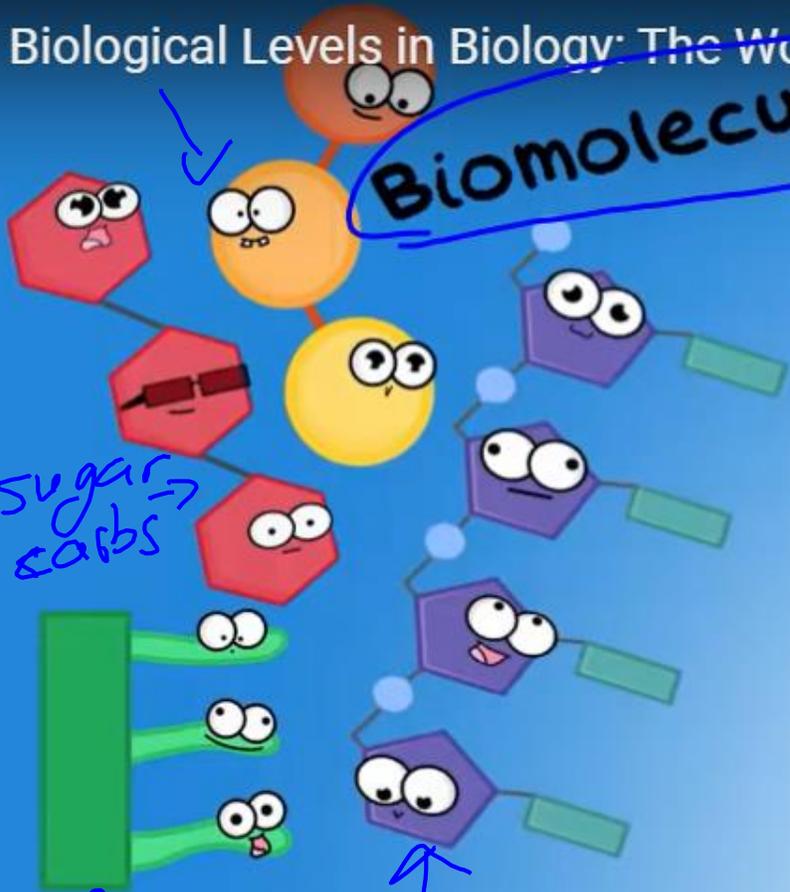
**Biosphere**: all the **biomes** on the earth

# Amoeba Sisters Video: Biological Levels in Biology: The World Tour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtWknf1gzKo>



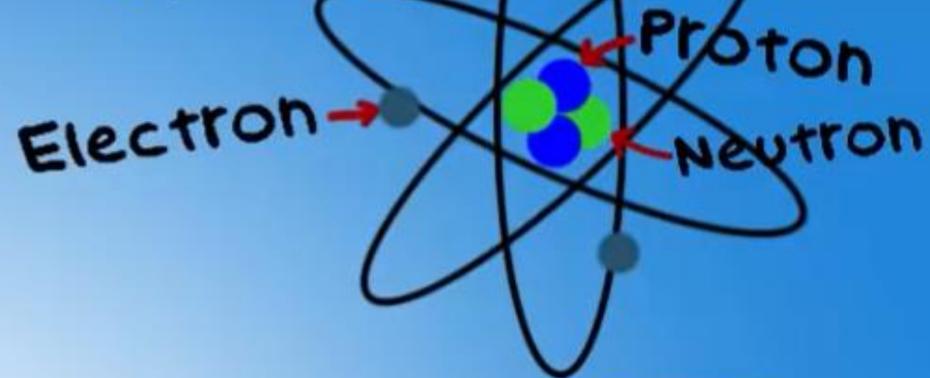
**Biomolecules**



sugar →  
carbs

fats (lipids)  
nucleic acid

**Atom**



**Organelles**



**Nucleus**

**Mitochondrion**

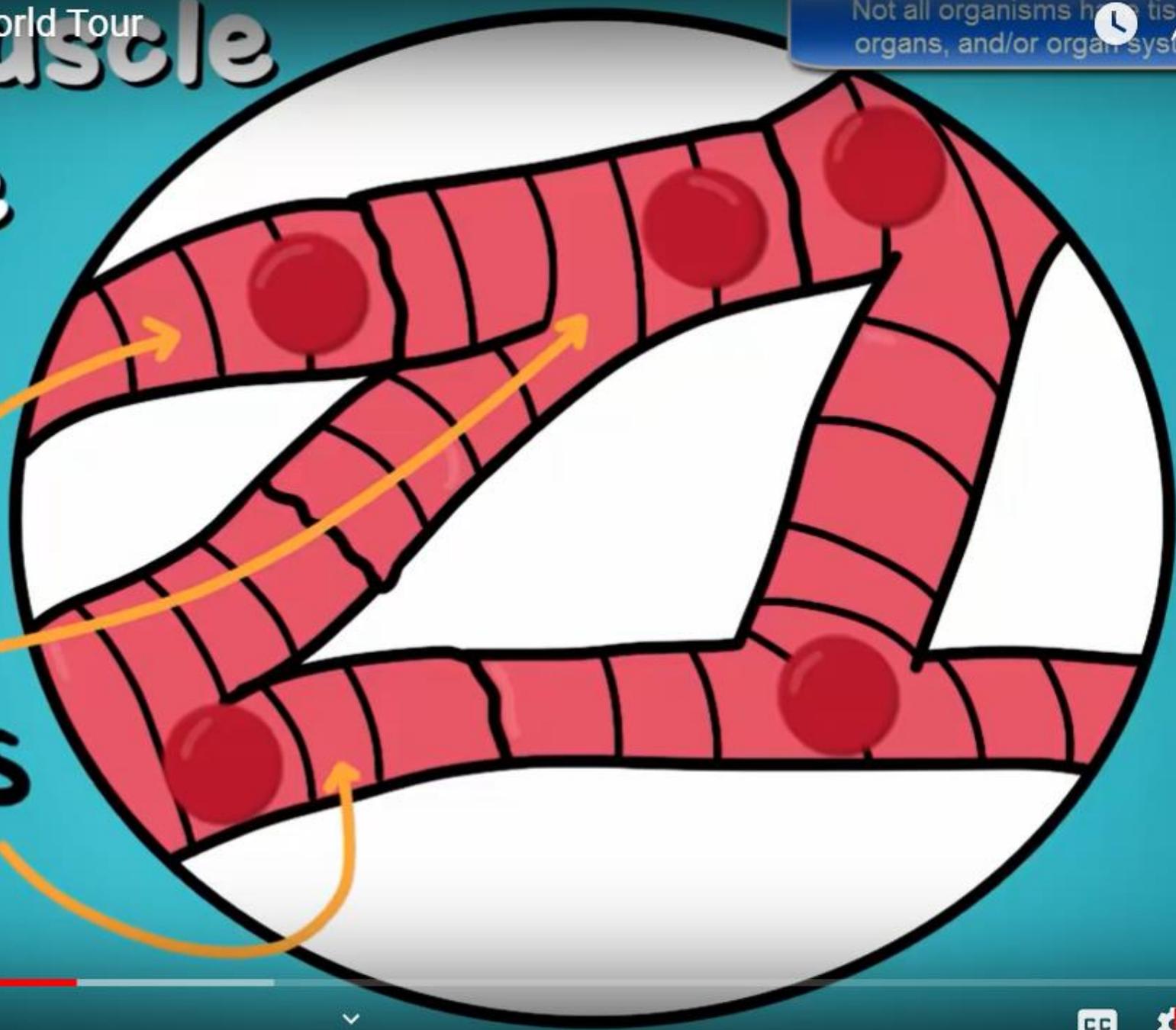
# Biological Levels in Biology: The World Tour

## Cardiac Muscle

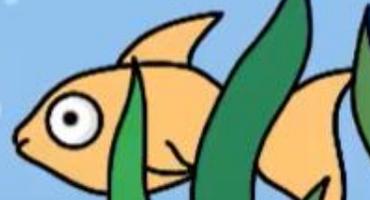
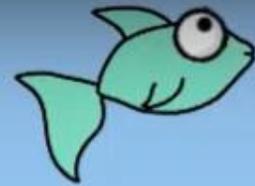
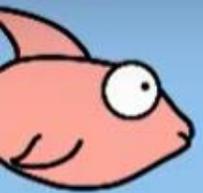
Not all organisms have tissues, organs, and/or organ systems.   

### Tissue

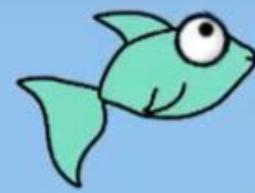
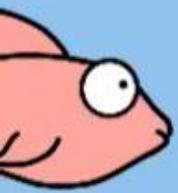
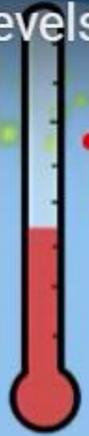
### Cells



# Community



Temperature



Rocks

# Desert



# Rainforest



# (Biological Levels – Amoeba Sisters)

## Biological Levels: Amoeba Sisters Video Clip

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Biological levels are **analyzed**. Explain the meaning of analyzed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Biological Levels → 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ ,

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )

→ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (example would be the \_\_\_\_\_)

→ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (example would be \_\_\_\_\_)

→ 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (such as the \_\_\_\_\_)

→ 5<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ → 6<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

→ 7<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ → 8<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

→ 9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ → 10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

3. Communities are composed of biotic factors and are

affected by abiotic factors.

4. Temperature, rocks, and \_\_\_\_\_ are abiotic factors.

abiotic parts:

water → all need it for survival

examples of adaptations →

behavior or physical trait that enables something to survive in its environment.

Sonoran Desert (A2)



greatest biodiversity → variety of life

# Meerkat Video

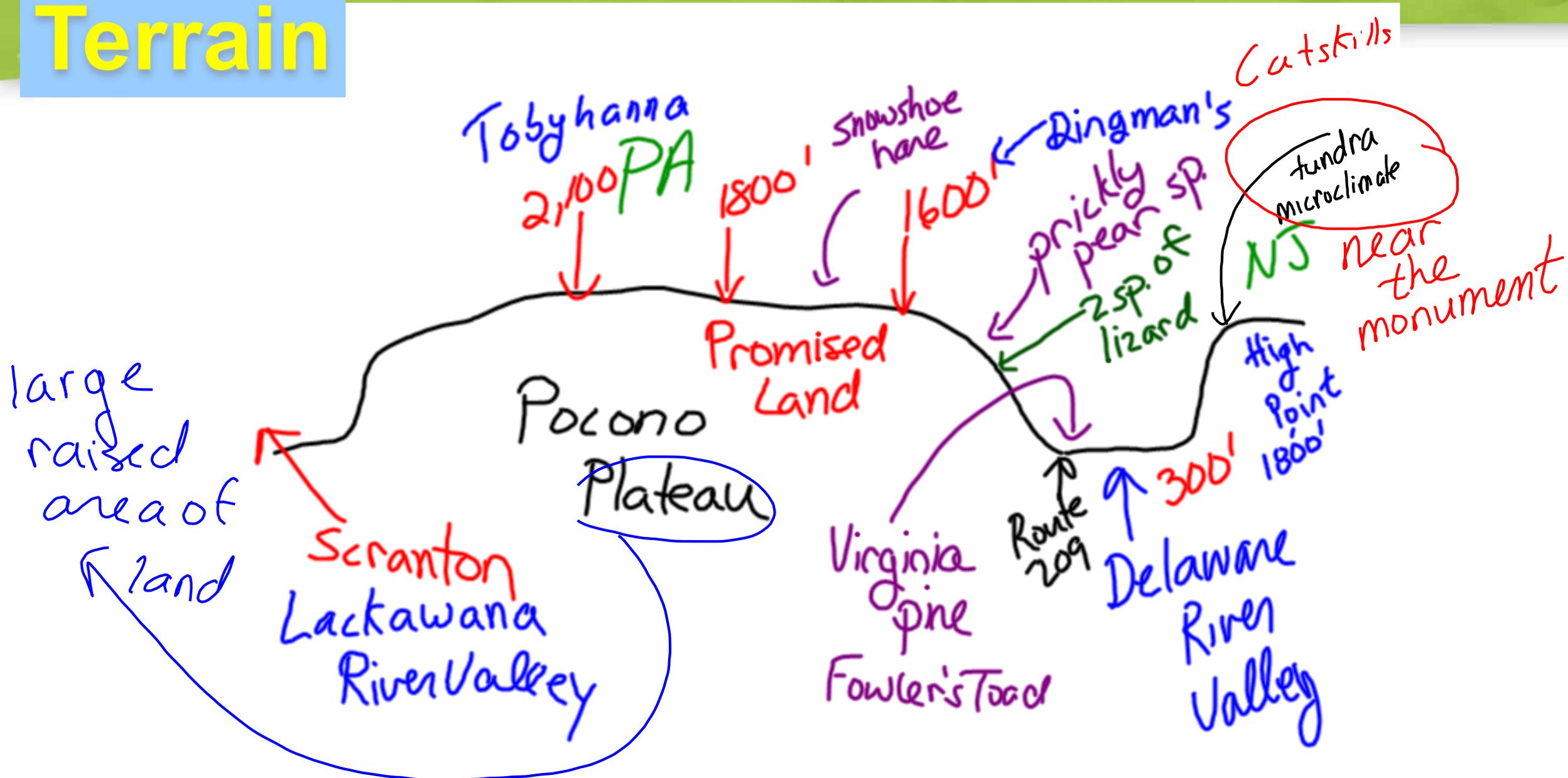
## Scorpions: eaten by meerkats

1. Hard **exoskeleton**: outer “shell” made of chitin (protein – known in biology as a macromolecule) that gives them structure and protection (the function)
2. **Exoskeleton**: prevents **desiccation** (loss of water)

## Meerkat Adaptations

1. long claws → digging
2. close ears when digging
3. don't drink water → water needs from food.
4. dark markings around eyes → reduces glare
5. darker underneath → used to absorb heat on cool mornings.  
↓  
most animals are lighter underneath

# Terrain



# Fowler's Toad

1. **Specialist:** unique or specific habitat needs
2. **Habitat requirement(s):** sandy soil
3. **Where found:** river floodplains



# Virginia Pine

1. Habitat requirement(s):  
sandy soils,  
**indicator species**
2. Where found:  
river floodplains



# Prickly Pear Cacti

## 1. Habitat

requirement(s):  
lots of sun, dry,  
warm, well-  
drained soil

## 2. Where found:

south facing steep  
slopes (cliff sides)



# Five Lined Skink and Northern Fence Lizard

1. Reptiles: scales (folds in skin)
2. Legs: horizontal, extend sideways
3. **Habitat** requirements: lots of sun, dry, warm, well-drained soil
4. Where found: south facing steep slopes (cliff sides) - ectotherms



# Snowshoe Hare

1. **Habitat requirement(s):**  
preferred plant foods,  
higher terrain/elevation
2. **Where found:** top of  
plateau



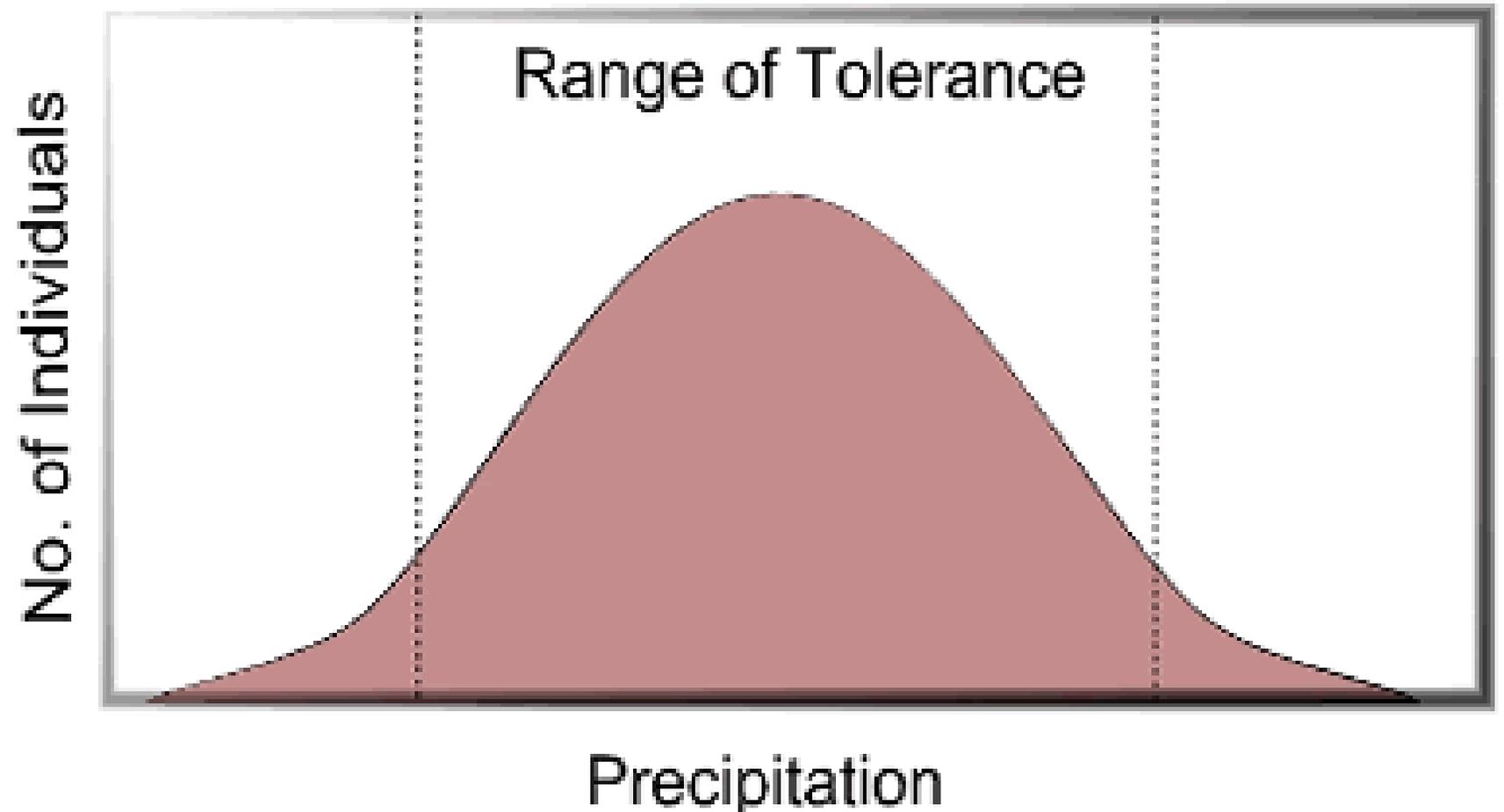
# Habitat

- specific environment in which an organism lives
- provides an organism with **resources**—anything an organism needs to survive and reproduce - including food, shelter, and mates.



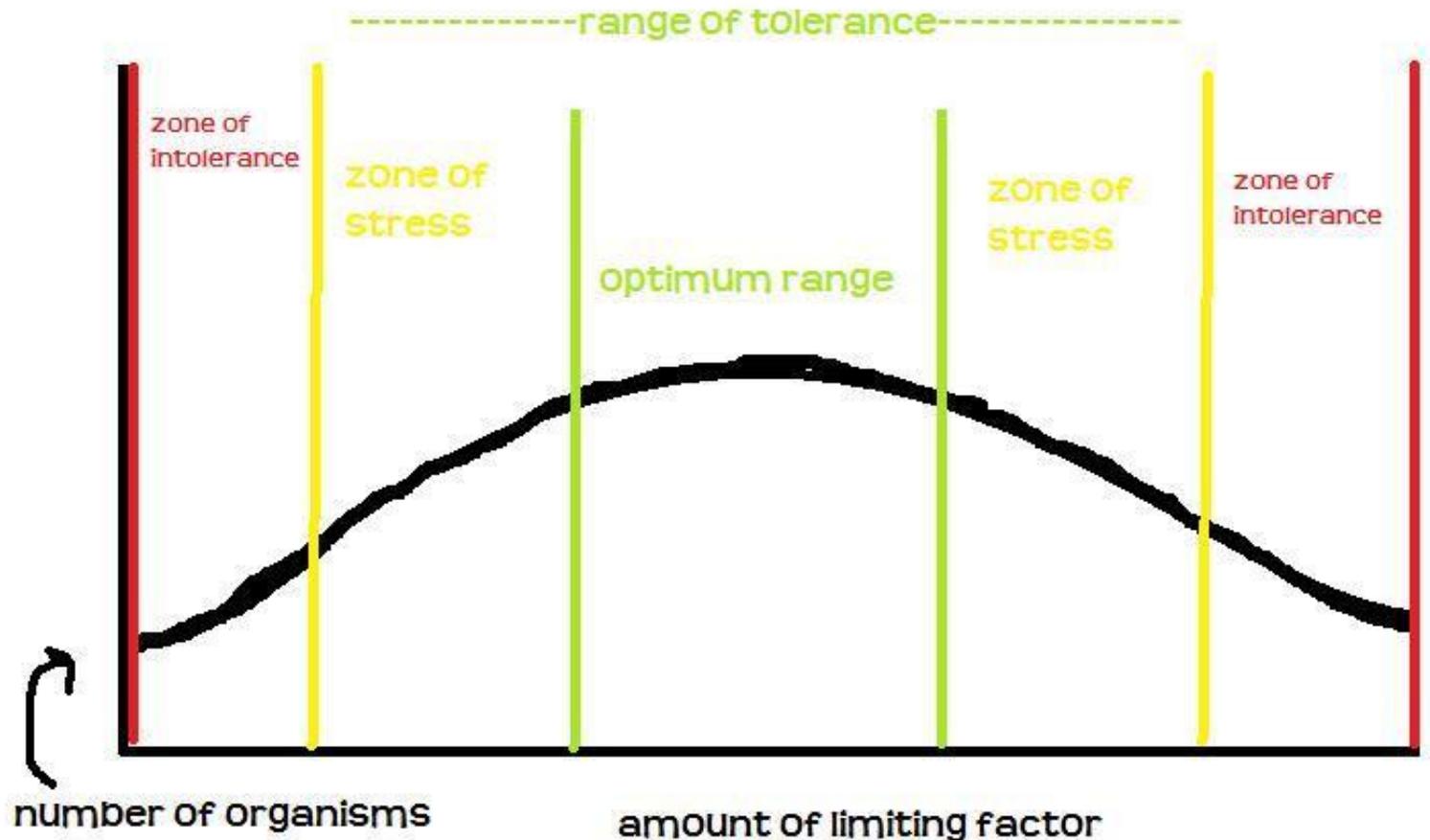
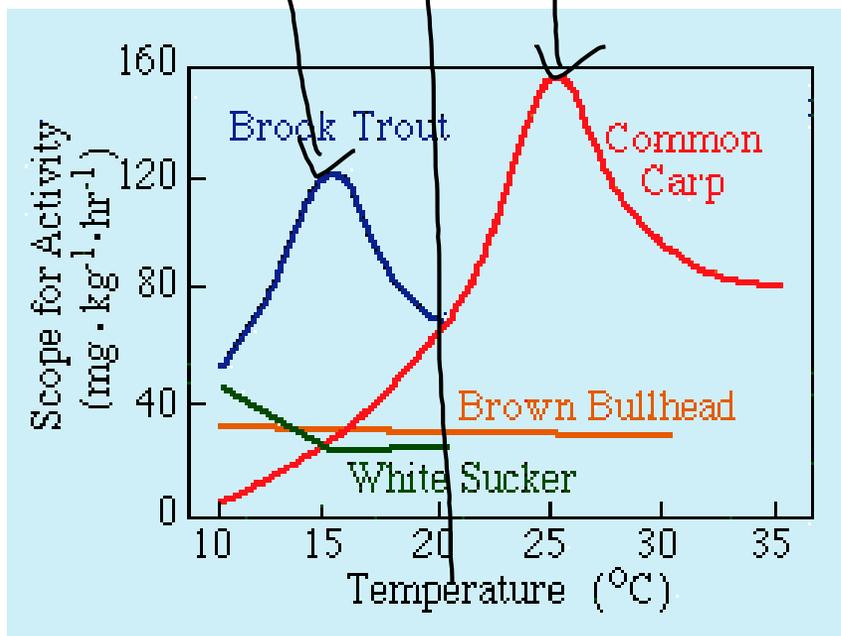
# Tolerance

limits and conditions within which an organism can exist



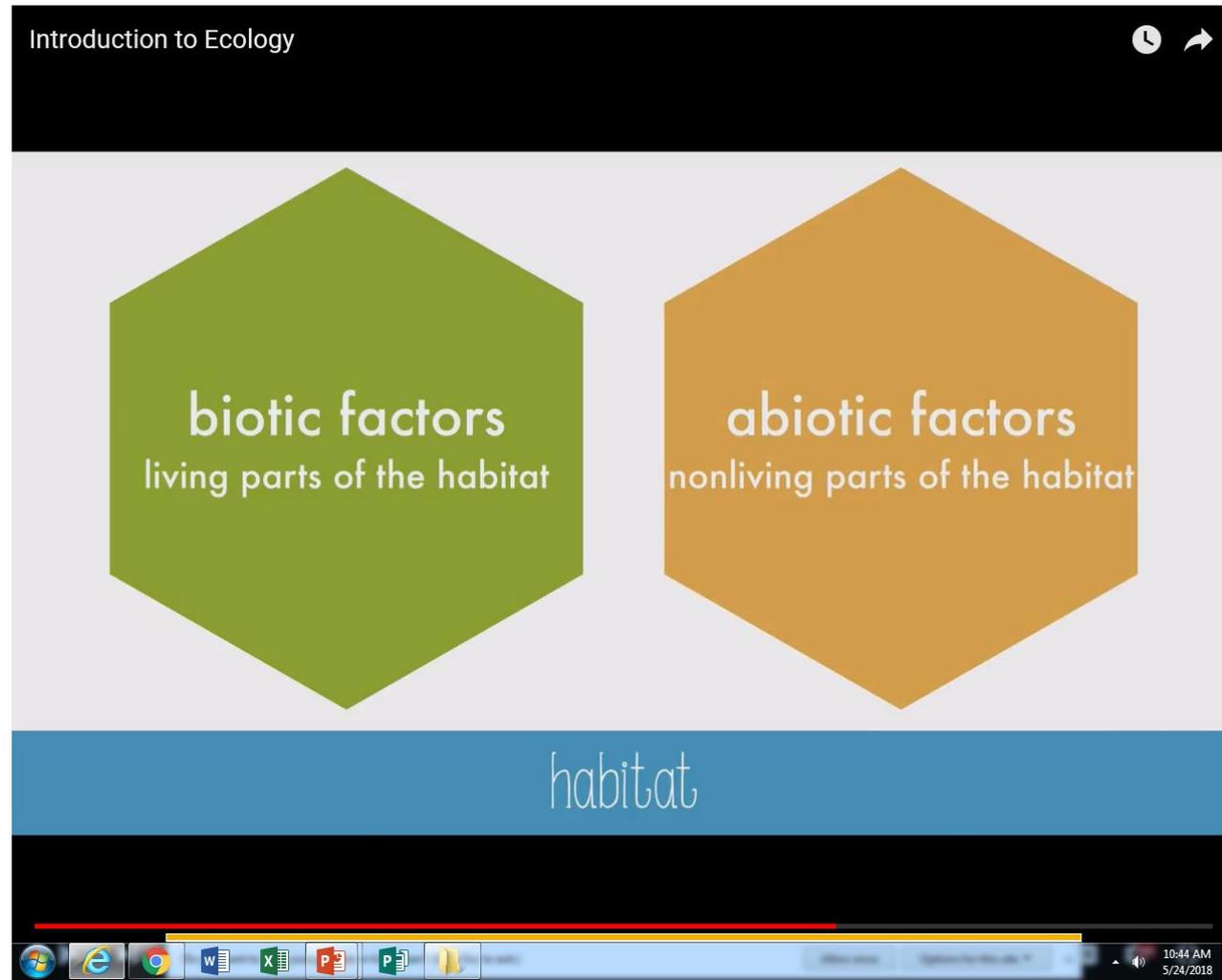
# Tolerance

- limits and conditions within which an organism can exist



# Video: Teachers Pet – Ecological Levels/Ecological Factors, Habitats/Niches...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlnFylwdYH4&t=10s>



# Video Recap: Teachers Pet – Ecological Levels/Ecological Factors, Habitats/Niches...

1. What is **ecology**?
2. Name 5 levels of ecological organization – from largest to smallest.
3. Explain the difference between the terms **ecosystem** and **community**.
4. Explain the difference between the terms **community** and a **population**.
5. Define the meaning of **biotic** and **abiotic**.
6. Explain the meaning of **habitat** and **niche**.
7. What is the difference between a **generalist** and **specialist**?

# Video Recap: Teachers Pet – Ecological Levels/Ecological Factors, Habitats/Niches...

1. **Ecology:** study of how organisms interact
2. 5 levels of ecological organization: biosphere, ecosystems, community, population, organism
3. Difference between the terms **ecosystem** and **community**:  
community all the abiotic factors  
↳ All the living parts and biotic factors
4. Difference between the terms **community** and a **population**:  
all the biotic parts.  
↓  
single species.

# Video Recap: Teachers Pet – Ecological Levels/Ecological Factors, Habitats/Niches...

5. **biotic:** living                      **abiotic:** non-living

6. **habitat:** specific place → basic needs

**niche:** role/job, how something survives

7. Difference between a **generalist** and **specialist:**

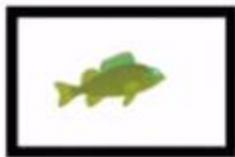
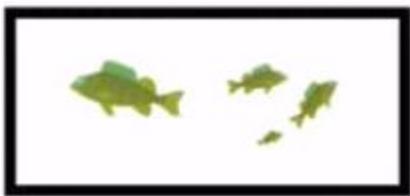
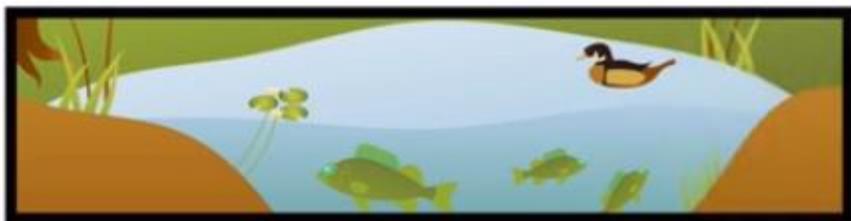
↳ like a black bear

very adaptable

to a lot of environments/  
conditions.

↳ like a koala bear

very specific needs,  
narrow range  
of tolerance



broad

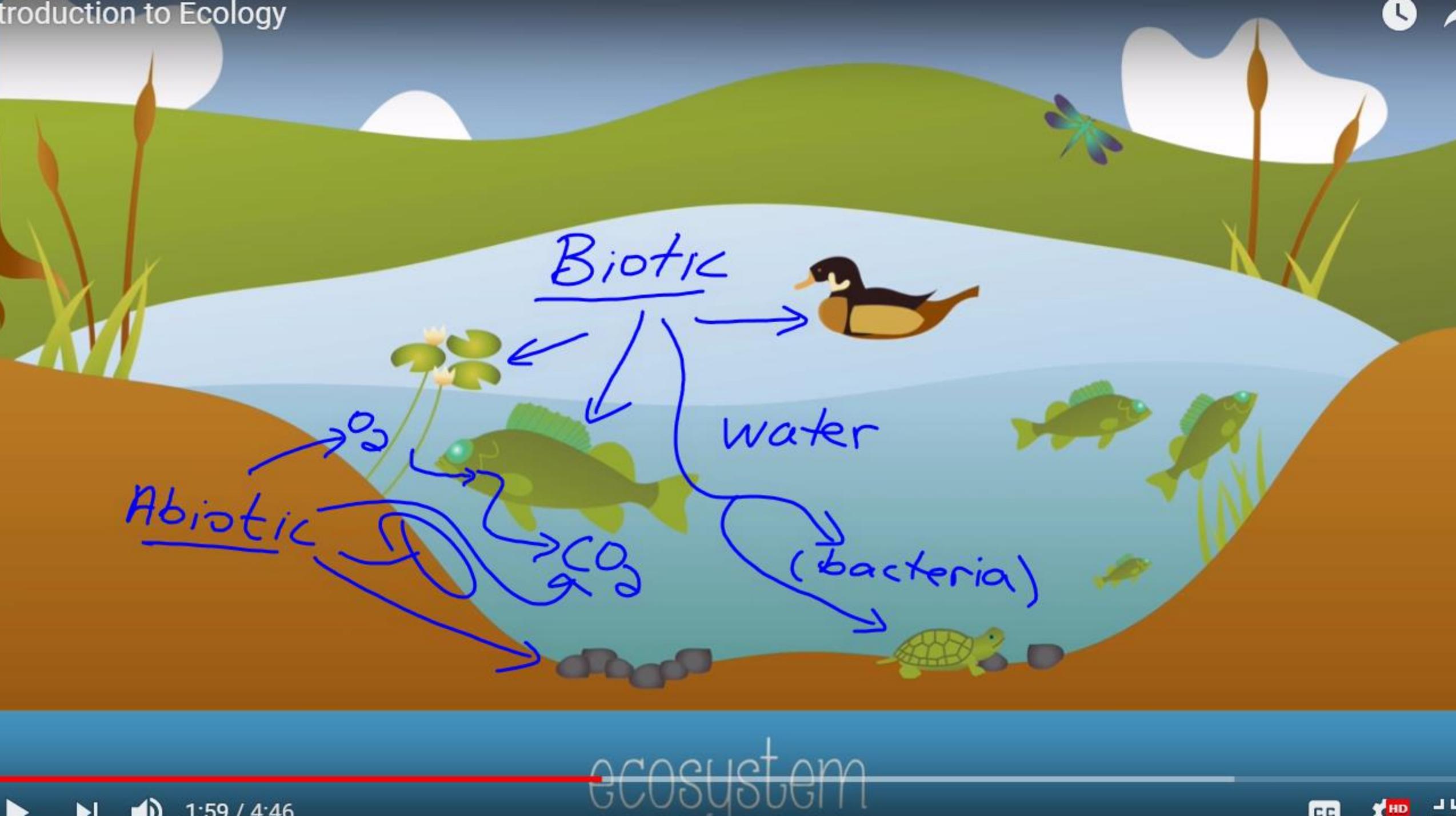


narrow

← community  
↳ all the species/populations

← population - 1 species

levels of organization



Biotic

water

Abiotic

$O_2$

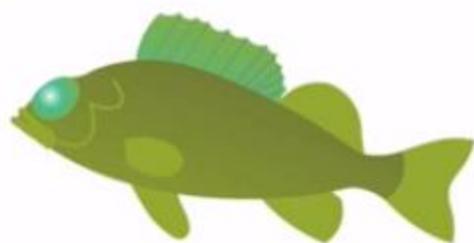
$CO_2$

(bacteria)

ecosystem



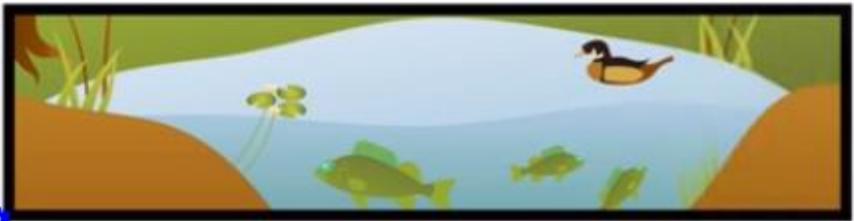
Biotic parts only.





broad

living + non-living



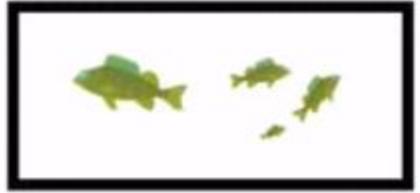
ecosystem

abiotic

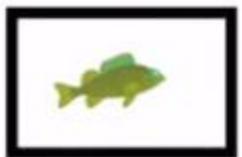
living (biotic)



community  
↳ all the species



population  
↳ 1 species



narrow



levels of organization