

BIODIVERSITY AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LIFE

Life on Earth National 5 biology

What is an ecosystem?

WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM?

By the end of these lessons you should be able to:

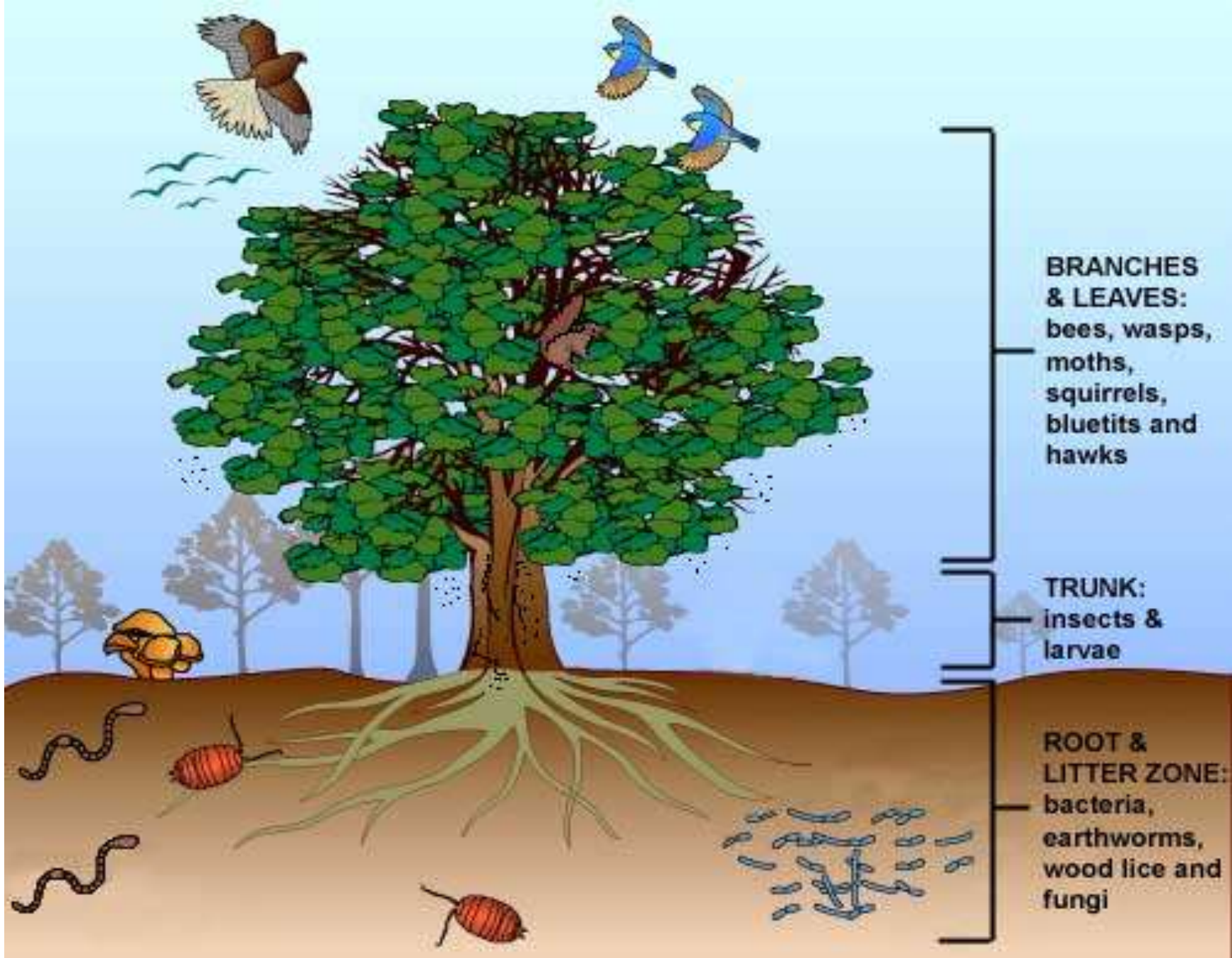
- ◉ Describe what is meant by an ecosystem.
- ◉ Define the terms habitat, population and community.
- ◉ Identify ecosystem components.

WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM

- ⦿ An ecosystem is a biological unit made up of all the living things in that area (the community) and the non living part (the habitats).
- ⦿ community + habitat = ecosystem

ECOSYSTEM TERMS

Term	Meaning
Habitat	The place where an organism lives.
Population	The total number of organisms of <u>one type</u> living in a habitat.
Community	The total number of organisms of <u>all types</u> living in a habitat.



BRANCHES & LEAVES:
bees, wasps,
moths,
squirrels,
bluebirds and
hawks

TRUNK:
insects &
larvae

ROOT & LITTER ZONE:
bacteria,
earthworms,
woodlice and
fungi



This pond ecosystem consists of the pond habitat, populations of aquatic plants, minnows, microbes and heron. These organisms make up the community of living things.

CAN YOU.....

- ◉ Describe an ecosystem?
- ◉ Define the terms habitat, population and community?
- ◉ Identify habitats, populations and communities in a given ecosystem?

