



## The Ecosystem & the Environment

An ecosystem includes an environment and all of the living and non-living things in that environment. The non-living parts of an ecosystem may include air, water, soil and climate. The living parts of an ecosystem are called organisms, and include the plants and animals of that region.

There are many ecosystems on Earth. Each ecosystem has unique conditions created by the soil, water, air and climate of the environment. These conditions determine which kinds of organisms can live in that environment.

Ecosystems on Earth may include land or water, or both. Some terrestrial (land) ecosystems on Earth include deserts, forests, grasslands, and tropical rainforests. Marine (water) ecosystems on Earth include freshwater rivers, bogs and streams, and saltwater oceans.

Each ecosystem includes different animals and plants that live there, and depend upon their environment for their needs of food, sun and water. An ecosystem also includes non-living components, such as the air, water, soil and climate.