

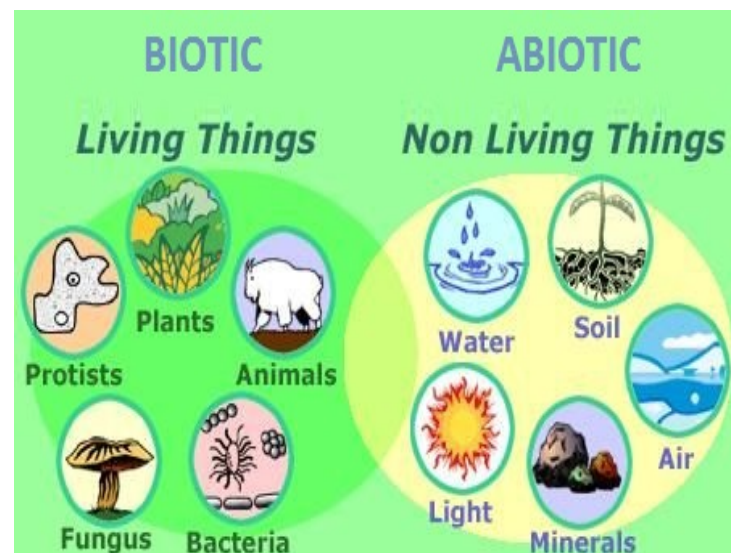
ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystem is like a big community of **living** and **non-living** things in one area. Living things include plants, animals, and other creatures that live together. Non-living things are stuff like water, rocks, soil, and sand. Ecosystems can be different, like a swamp, a prairie, an ocean, or a forest.

Now, in every ecosystem, there are two important factors:

Biotic: these are all the living things in a place. Think of a forest; the trees, animals, and even people are part of this factor.

Abiotic: these are the non-living things that affect the environment. Imagine a pond; the water, sunlight, rocks, and air are on this team.



Biodiversity is about different kinds of life in a place. It is important because it keeps everything in balance. If animals or plants are lost, the place can get hurt. For example, if a hunter animal is gone, the animals it eats might become too many. This can be bad for plants and other animals. Keeping biodiversity helps all life work together.