**Unit 8 Vocabulary Study Guide**

**Competition** – organisms trying to get access to the same resources

**Limiting factor** – Things in an environment which are in short supply and limit the maximum size of the population

**Carrying capacity** – the maximum population size that an ecosystem can support

**Exponential growth** – growth model that shows no limits and continues forever

**Logistic growth** – growth model that shows fast growth early on but levels out to equilibrium at carrying capacity

**Abiotic factor** – non-living factors in an environment (ex. air, water, geology, weather)

**Biotic factor** – living factor in an environment (ex. animals, plants, bacteria)

**Trophic level** – level at which an organism feeds on a food pyramid/food chain

**Energy pyramid** – diagram showing the loss of energy between trophic levels

**Predation** – one animal eating another animal

**Demography** – the study of populations

**Fixation** – taking atmospheric gas and converting it into something useful for plants/animals

**Symbiosis** – organisms living together

**Greenhouse effect** – earth’s atmosphere traps heat

**Biomass** – dry weight of all living material

**Invasive species** – organisms that are introduced to an area that have no natural predators and quickly replace native species

**Sustainable practice** – activity that humans can perform to conserve resources and protect the environment so that our ecosystems will remain healthy

**Eutrophication** – over-nourishment of lakes, ponds, stream, and rivers due to nitrogen fertilizer runoff

**Natural resource** – items that we get from the environment and find useful (some are renewable, some are not)

**Acid rain** – formed when sulfur dioxide and other chemicals are spewed from factory smoke stacks

**Ozone** – molecule consisting of 3 oxygen atoms that form a layer around the planet and protects from UV rays

**Review vocab**

**Geographic isolation** – separation of populations by a new natural or human-made structure, causing the populations to be isolated

**Trial and error learning** – learning by making mistakes and trying again until you get it right

**Pheromones** – signal chemicals that organisms produce to lay down scent trails for other organisms

**Stem cell** – cell that does not have a job yet