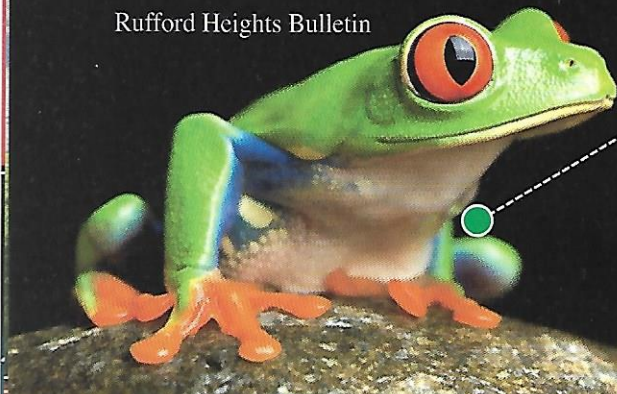


Rufford Heights Bulletin



biotic

abiotic

## Keep Our Waterways Clean!

A disaster hit Rufford Lake last week. Chemical waste killed hundreds of fish. Remember, we are all responsible for taking care of local **ecosystems**.

**Biotic** creatures rely on **abiotic** materials like water. A damaged **component** threatens the entire **community**. The lake is a **habitat** for many creatures. That particular **species** of fish is very important. It eats algae and other **organisms**. Without the fish **population**, there is too much algae. Some smaller creatures can barely survive.

Fortunately, some fish are still alive. It's up to us to save these fish and preserve the **genetic diversity** of Rufford Lake. Let's avoid another incident. Support anti-dumping laws.



organism



population

community

## Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 ___ abiotic   | 4 ___ population        |
| 2 ___ organism  | 5 ___ community         |
| 3 ___ component | 6 ___ genetic diversity |

- A a group of individuals from different species  
 B the variation among individuals in a species  
 C an important piece or part of something  
 D an individual living thing  
 E not a living thing  
 F a group of individuals from the same species

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words.

- A(n) **organism / species** is a large group of individuals.
- Ponds and forests are examples of **genetic diversity / habitats**.
- Both living and nonliving things make up a(n) **ecosystem / community**.
- Humans and trees are both **abiotic / biotic**.

## Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- What is an example of a habitat?
- What does a community contain?

## Reading

2 Read the article. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- \_\_\_ Too many fish were removed by fishermen.
- \_\_\_ The lack of fish harmed the algae population.
- \_\_\_ Some of the fish population survived the incident.



- 5 Listen and read the article again. Why are fish important to their habitat?

## Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between two scientists. Choose the correct answers.

- What is the main idea of the conversation?  
A how to identify missing components of an ecosystem  
B what is causing the death of a fish population  
C where to find a better fish habitat  
D which type of waste is destroying a species of fish
- According to the man, what will happen to the fish?  
A They will all die out soon.  
B The strong ones will keep the population going.  
C They will move to a thriving habitat.  
D They will be removed by scientists.

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

**Scientist 1:** Have you been to Rufford Lake recently?

**Scientist 2:** Yes. There aren't very many fish in the water anymore.

**Scientist 1:** Five years ago, that lake was a thriving 1 \_\_\_\_\_. What happened?

**Scientist 2:** They're dying. It's because people 2 \_\_\_\_\_ in the lake.

**Scientist 1:** Really? That's terrible. Do you think the fish will 3 \_\_\_\_\_ eventually?

**Scientist 2:** I doubt it. The species has a lot of 4 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scientist 1:** You mean that some fish 5 \_\_\_\_\_ than others?

**Scientist 2:** Exactly. I think there are enough left to keep the 6 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

### USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

*Have you been to ...?*

*It's because of ...*

*You mean that ...*

**Student A:** You are a scientist. Talk to Student B about:

- an ecosystem
- how the ecosystem has changed
- what you think will happen in the future

**Student B:** You are a scientist. Talk to Student A about changes in an ecosystem.

## Writing

- 9 Use the article and the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the ecological report.

### City of Cork Municipal Ecology Report

Area: \_\_\_\_\_

List populations that are threatened: \_\_\_\_\_

What is threatening the population? \_\_\_\_\_

What will probably happen to the population? \_\_\_\_\_

habitat