

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.



population

community

organism

Get ready!

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

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

Reading

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

- 1 ___ Too many fish were removed by fishermen.
- 2 ___ The lack of fish harmed the algae population.
- 3 ___ Some of the fish population survived the incident.

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.

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

- 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?
 - how to identify missing components of an ecosystem
 - what is causing the death of a fish population
 - where to find a better fish habitat
 - which type of waste is destroying a species of fish
- According to the man, what will happen to the fish?
 - They will all die out soon.
 - The strong ones will keep the population going.
 - They will move to a thriving habitat.
 - 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