

14.1 Habitat And Niche

KEY CONCEPT

Every organism has a habitat and a niche.



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▶ A habitat differs from a niche.

- A **habitat** is all aspects of the area in which an organism lives.
 - biotic factors
 - abiotic factors
- An ecological niche includes all of the factors that a species needs to survive, stay healthy, and reproduce.
 - food
 - abiotic conditions
 - behavior



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- ▶ **Resource availability gives structure to a community.**
 - Species can share habitats and resources.
 - **Competition** occurs when two species use resources in the same way.
 - Competitive exclusion keeps two species from occupying the same niche.

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- **Competitive exclusion** has different outcomes.
 - One species is better suited to the niche and the other will either be pushed out or become extinct.
 - The niche will be divided.
 - The two species will further diverge.



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- **Ecological equivalents** are species that occupy similar niches but live in different geographical regions.

