

## Vocabulary

**10% Rule:** This is also called the 'efficiency of energy transfer' rule. As we move up the food chain, 90% of energy is lost between trophic levels. This means that to maintain a healthy population of higher trophic level creatures, a population at least 10 times the size of lower trophic level creatures is necessary.

**Climate:** The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period. The long-term weather of a region or area.

**Climate change:** A change in average weather conditions over a long timescale.

**Ecosystem:** A biological community of interacting organisms and their environment.

**Energy transfer:** This describes the changes in energy that occur between creatures in an ecosystem.

**Food chain:** A hierarchical series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of food, starting with primary producers and ending in the apex predators.

**Food Web:** A system of interlocking and interdependent food chains.

**Multi-trophic:** A system that includes multiple trophic levels.

**Niche:** The role an organism plays in a community, including the physical and environmental conditions it requires (like temperature or terrain) and the interactions it has with other species (like predation or competition).

**Physiological Sensitivity (temperature breadth):** The ability of a creature to adapt to changes in its environment.

**Resistance:** The ability of an organism or an ecosystem to not be changed by some sort of stressor or disturbance. In the case of Tinystea, this is mostly related to temperature.

**Resilience:** The ability of an ecosystem to recover after a disturbance. Resistance refers to an ecosystem's ability to resist change, while resilience refers to the ability to recover after a change occurs.

**Resource:** A material or space that is utilized by organisms.

**Spawn Rate:** The speed at which a creature reproduces.

**Thermal Sensitivity:** The response of an organism to changing temperatures.

**Trophic level:** The position of an organism within a food web.

**Weather:** The state of the atmosphere at a place and time as regards heat, dryness, sunshine, wind, rain.

**Tipping points:** A critical point in a system that leads to large scale (and often permanent) changes in the system when exceeded.

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