

Ecology

ANSWER KEY: 1.12 Roles in Ecosystems (page 40-44)

INTRODUCTION (PAGES 40-41)

1. The organism's place in the food web, its habitat, breeding area, and the time of day that it is most active is its **ecological niche**.
2. The niche an organism fills in an ecosystem includes everything it does to survive and reproduce.
3. Each species has a different role to play, this helps reduce competition between species for the same territory and resources.
4. Warblers are a good example of how species reduce competition by occupying different niches.

COMPETITION FOR NICHES (PAGE 41)

1. When a new species enters an ecosystem, it causes a disturbance because it will come into competition for a niche with one or more of the species already in the ecosystem.
2. The introduction of new species (often called "**exotic species**" because they are not native to the ecosystem) happens naturally.
3. Animals are mobile, and can move from one ecosystem to another.

HUMANS AND EXOTIC SPECIES (PAGE 42)

1. The introduction of new species (often called "**exotic species**" because they are not native to the ecosystem) happens naturally.
2. Humans constantly bring ecosystems into contact with each other, as they tend to take organisms with them when they travel, often with serious consequences.
3. The wild African bee population grew and they spread, they are beneficial because they would increase honey production.
4. The African bees are usually referred to as "killer bees" because they tend to swarm and attack animals, the result of them moving is more honey but more dangers because of them to the country they move to.
5. Canada is relatively safe from these "killer bees" because they don't do well in colder climates.