Eco Word Puzzle

Across

1. the unique role of an organism
3. an organism that gets its energy by breaking down dead matter
6. any form of water that falls from the sky
7. animal droppings
9. a group of organisms of the same species living in the same ecosystem

11. parts of the ecosystem that have never been alive
13. a consumer that eats only plants
14. height above sea level
17. the way a plant or animal changes to fit its environment

18. a consumer that eats both plants and animals
19. the study of ecosystems

Down

2. a consumer that eats only meat
4. the process where plants turn sunlight into food
5. a place where living and non-living things are connected
8. an organism that gets its energy by eating other organisms
10. a person who studies ecosystems
12. an organism that gets its energy from photosynthesis
15. a particular group of organisms that can interbreed
16. the place where an organism lives
Eco Word Puzzle Sentence Hints

Use these sentences to help you figure out the meaning of the ecology terms.

Adaptation: A yucca’s funnel-shaped leaves are an adaptation to help it catch more water.
Ecology: The ecosystems scientist studied ecology.
 Decomposer: The mushroom was a decomposer: it was breaking down the dead tree.
 Niche: The part the lizard played in nature—what it ate and used and what used it, where it lived, and so on—was its niche.
 Population: The deer population in Yellowstone National Park went down from 400 to 320 in one year.
 Elevation: The top of the Sandia Mountains is at a high elevation.
 Carnivore: A mountain lion is a carnivore—it only eats meat.
 Non-living: Rocks and water are non-living things.
 Photosynthesis: A plant goes through photosynthesis to make food from the sun’s energy and other resources.
 Ecologist: The ecologist loved studying ecosystems.
 Scat: We found coyote scat with berries and nuts in it. It was not like dog scat.
 Omnivore: Sally is an omnivore—she loves burgers and fruit.
 Habitat: A meadow is a rabbit’s habitat.
 Herbivore: A deer eats only grass and other plants, so it is an herbivore.
 Precipitation: Rain and snow are types of precipitation.
 Consumers: Consumers consume, or eat, other things.
 Ecosystem: Producers, consumers, decomposers, non-living things, and their connections make up the ecosystem.
 Producer: A plant that makes food using the sun’s energy is a producer.
 Species: American black bears are all the same species.