ECOSYSTEM STRUCTURE

STRUCTURE OF ECOSYSTEMS

- Ecosystem = Highly organized & structured environment where all parts exist in balance
- Includes biotic and abiotic parts

BIOTIC VS. ABIOTIC PARTS

Biotic:

- All ***living*** parts of an ecosystem
  - **Plants**
  - **Animals**
  - **Microorganisms**

Abiotic

- All ***non-living*** parts of an ecosystem
  - **Water**
  - **Soil**
  - **Air**
  - **Temperature**
  - **Precipitation**
  - **Sunlight**

BIOTIC VS. ABIOTIC PARTS

List as many of each you can see below:

ORGANISM

- An individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form

SPECIES

- A group of organisms consisting of similar individuals (appearance, habitat, role within ecosystem, etc.)
- MUST be capable of breeding
  - Produce offspring that can also breed
  - NOT able to breed with other species
- Endangered Species: So very small in number that they are at risk of extinction

POPULATION

- All organisms of a species in a specific region at a certain time

COMMUNITY

- All populations in a specific region at a certain time

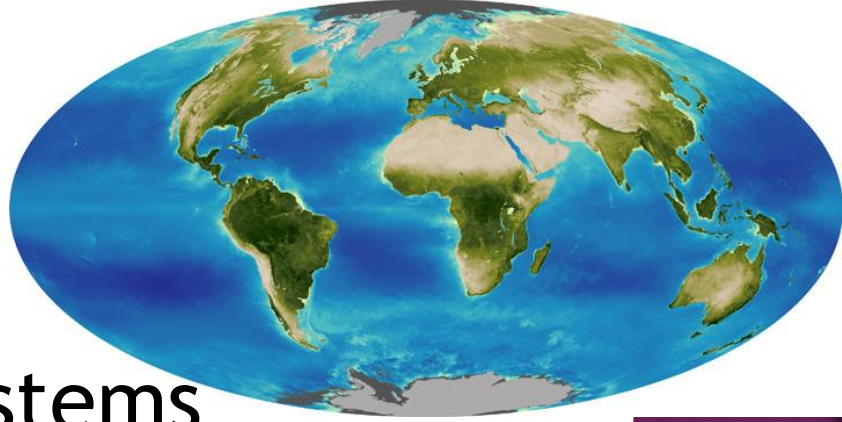
ECOSYSTEM

- Complex set of relationships among all biotic and abiotic parts

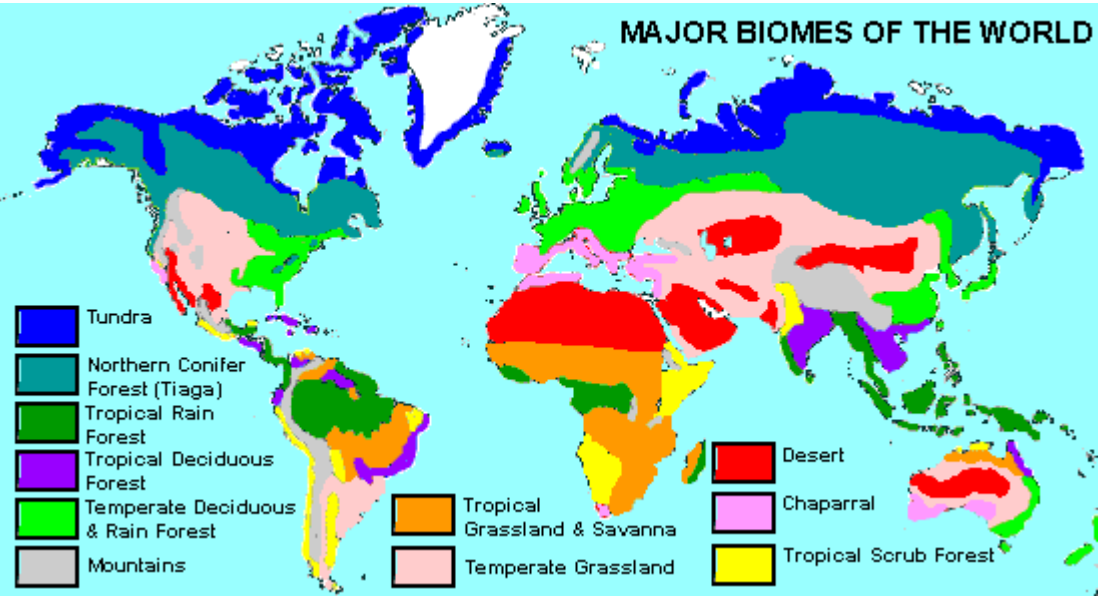
BIOME

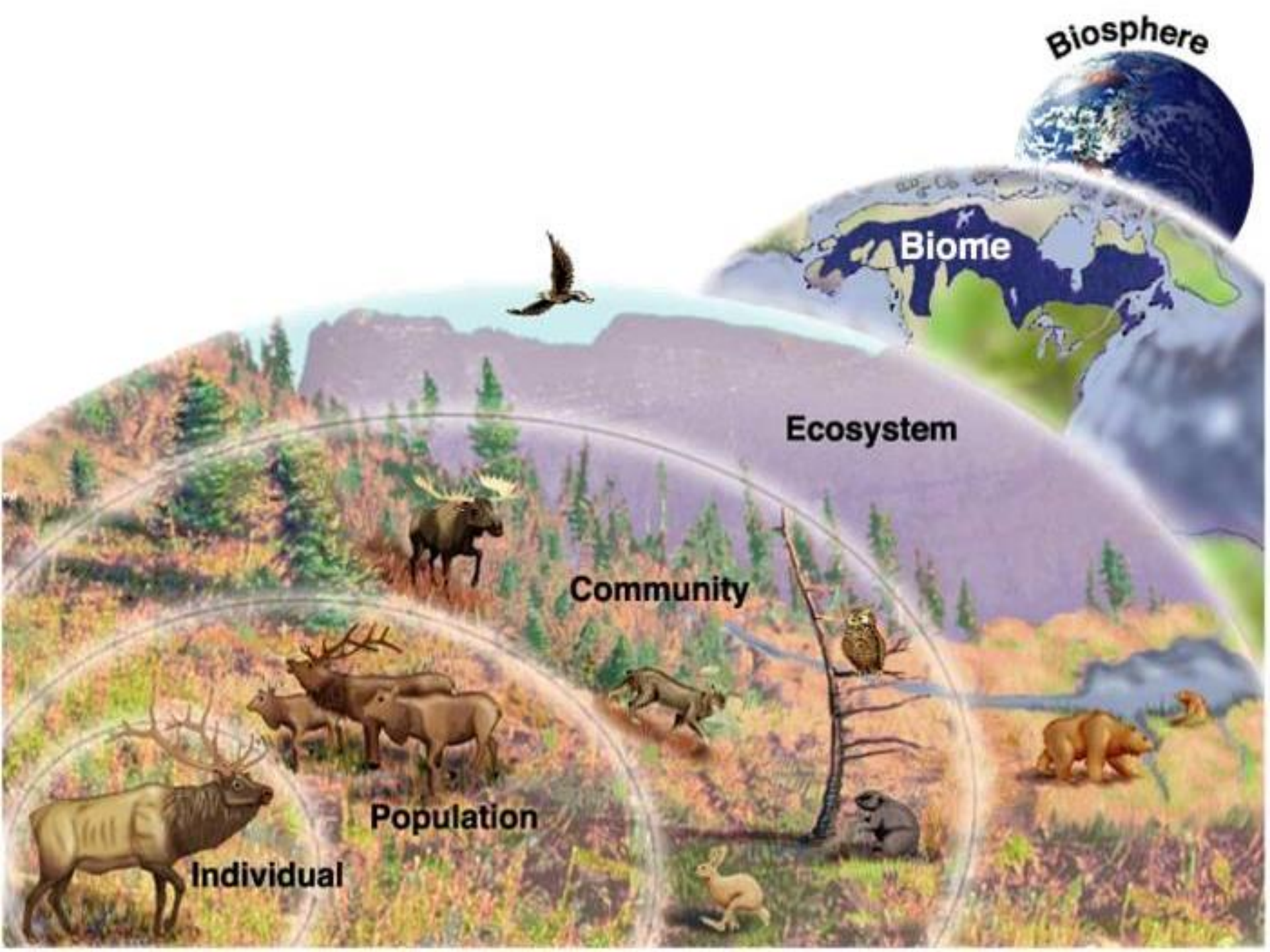
- Complex community defined by plant and animal species, maintained under climatic conditions of region

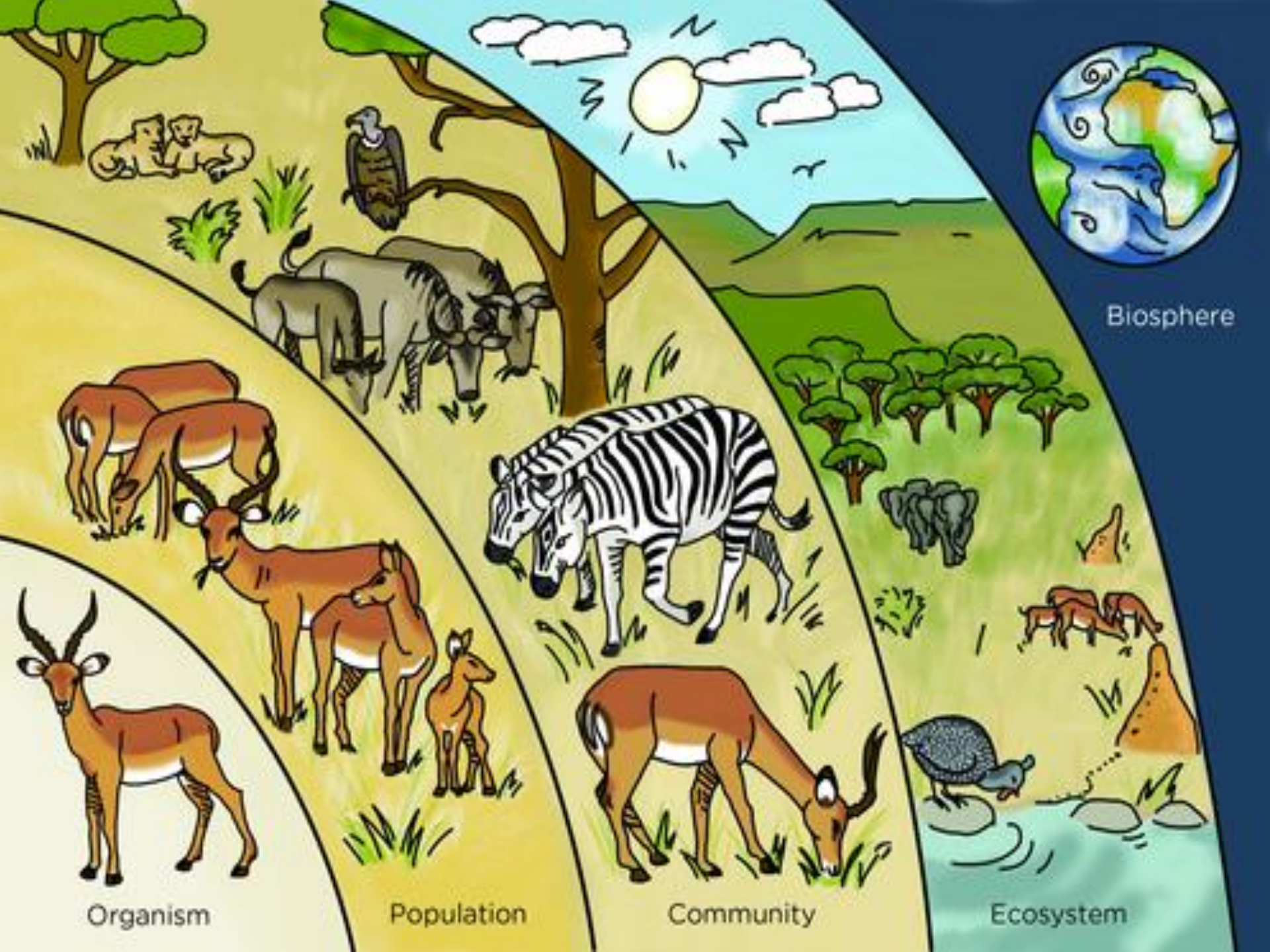
BIOSPHERE



- Global sum of all ecosystems
  - Includes atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere




Biosphere
Biome
Ecosystem
Community
Population
Individual


Biosphere
Ecosystem
Community
Population
Organism