ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: BIODIVERSITY

KEY FACTS

- ☑
- ☐ All life is linked
- ☐ Each habitat has its own ecosystem.
- ☐ A small change to an ecosystem can have a huge impact such as extinction.
- ☐ Extinction is when the last animal/plant of a species die out
- ☐ Extinction can happen for many reasons eg the mass extinction of the dinosaurs; habitat loss and climate change
- ☐ Conservationists work to stop animals from becoming extinct, by campaigning and by setting up nature reserves and breeding programmes
- ☐ Biodiversity loss occurs when the number of species reduces due to an extinction
- ☐ Biodiversity loss occurs for various reasons including habitat destruction, the introduction of invasive species, hunting and over-fishing
- ☐ Invasive species in the UK include grey squirrels, muntjac deer, Japanese knotweed and rhododendrons
- ☐ Land, air and water pollution affect biodiversity
- ☐ Soil pollution is caused by chemical pesticides and fertilizer
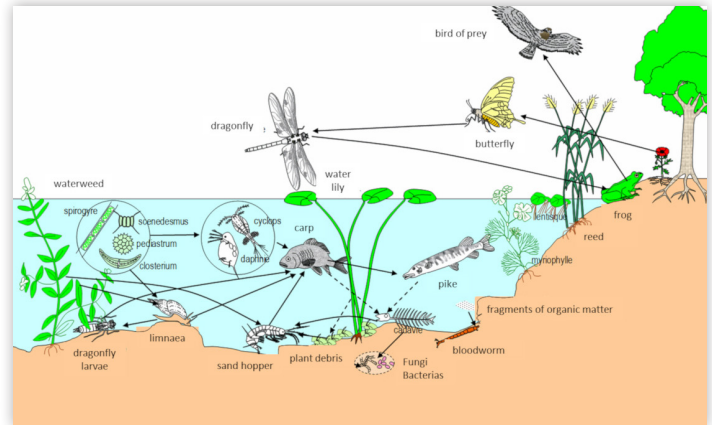- ☐ Organic farming uses sustainable methods.

BIODIVERSITY

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WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

- OBSERVING
- ASKING QUESTIONS
- COLLECTING AND RECORDING DATA
- PRESENTING FINDINGS
- MEASURING
- PREDICTING
- CONCLUDING
- WRITING SCIENTIFICALLY

KEY VOCABULARY

- ☑
- ☐ **Environment** - everything that is around us.
- ☐ **Biodiversity** - the variety of life on Earth.
- ☐ **Eco-system** - a community of living things, together with their habitat.
- ☐ **Habitat** - the place where and animal or plant lives.
- ☐ **Extinction** - when the last animal/plant of a species dies out.
- ☐ **Endangered species** - an animal or plant at risk of becoming extinct.
- ☐ **Conservation** - protecting habitats and endangered species.
- ☐ **Invasive species** - a plant or animal not originally part of the eco-system in which it now lives.
- ☐ **Pesticides** - chemicals sprayed on crops to kill small insects.

SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE

Dr Vandana Shiva is an Indian activist who campaigns against the use of chemical pesticides in farming.