

Chapter 13:

Our Environment

Class Notes

Our environment includes everything around us. An ecosystem is a system formed by the interaction of components like living organisms and non-living things.

These components interact with each other in various ways. However, human activities can impact the environment and disturb the natural balance.

Study Focus →

- Ecosystem 
- Food Chain 
- Ozone Layer 
- Waste Management 

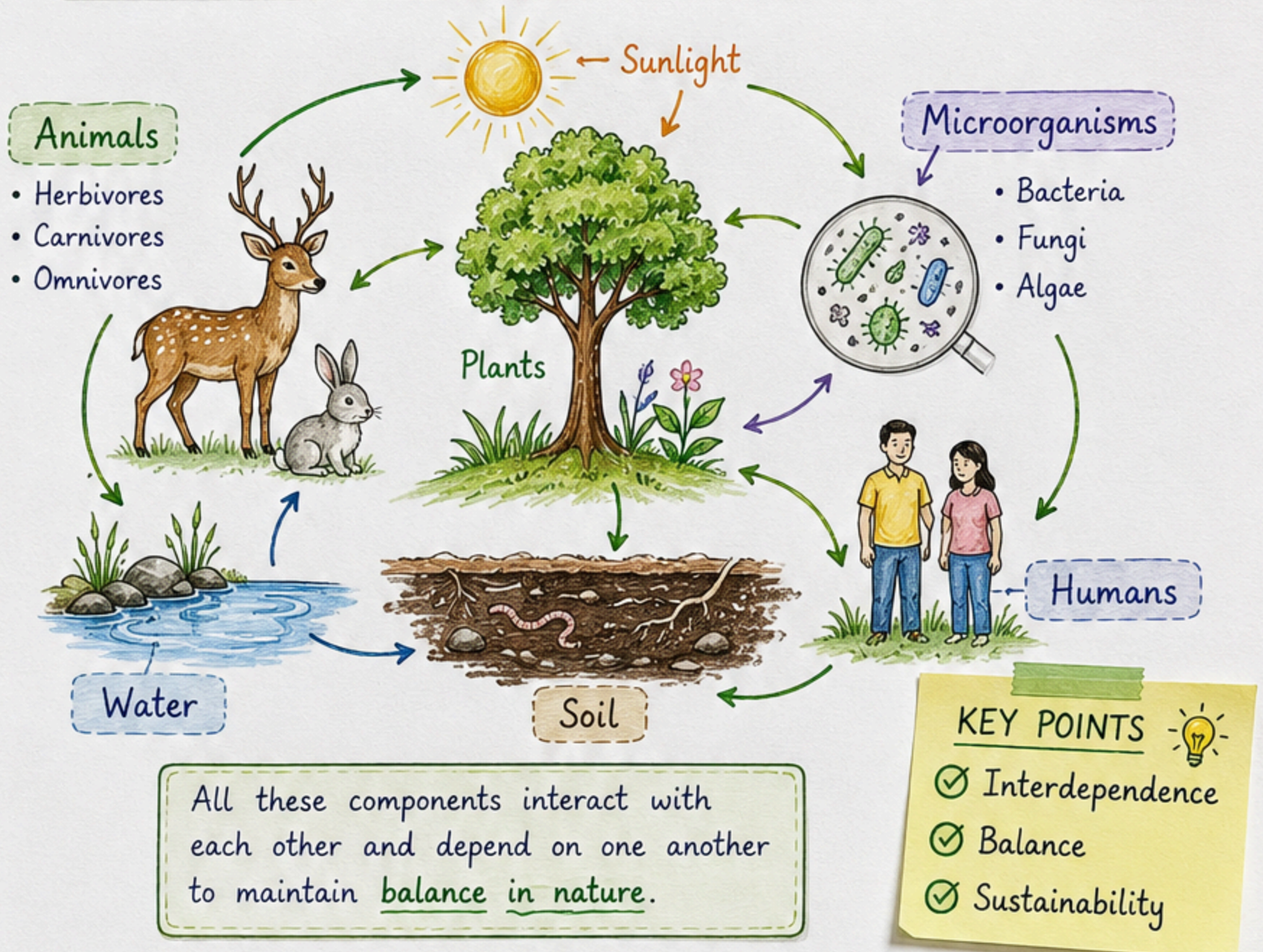
Chapter Roadmap

1. Eco-system 
2. Food Chains & Webs 
3. Energy Flow 
4. Biological Magnification 
5. Ozone Layer 
6. Garbage Management 

13.1 Eco-System – What Are Its Components?

DEFINITION

All interacting organisms in an area together with non-living constituents form an ecosystem.



Components of an Ecosystem

Biotic Components (Living Organisms)	Abiotic Components (Non-living Factors)
• Plants → Producers (make food) • Animals → Consumers ↳ Herbivores (plant-eaters) ↳ Carnivores (flesh-eaters) ↳ Omnivores (eat both) • Microorganisms → Decomposers (bacteria, fungi, algae)	• Temperature → Affects growth, distribution and survival. • Rainfall → Important for water supply and plant growth. • Wind → Helps in pollination, seed dispersal and climate control. • Soil → Provides nutrients and support to plants. • Minerals → Essential for growth and various life processes.

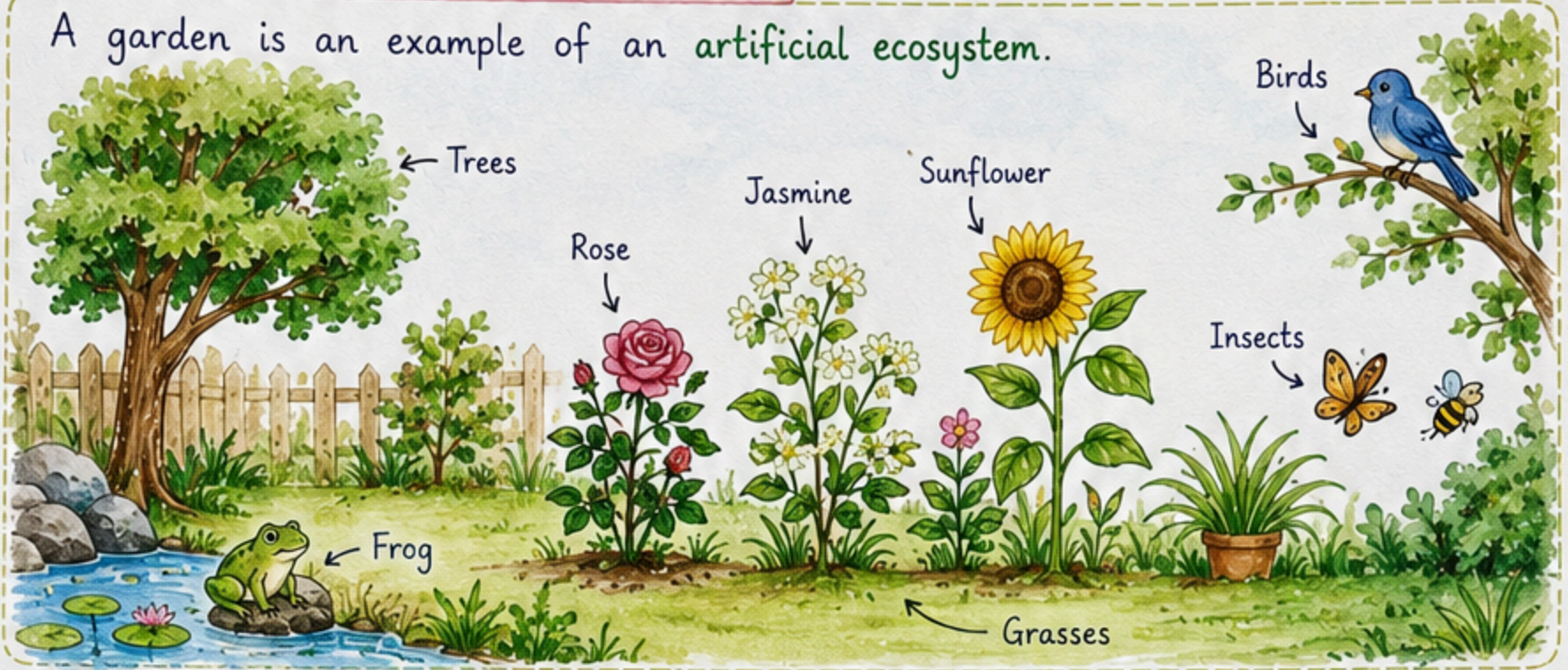
Remember: A healthy ecosystem means a healthy planet!

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Examples of Ecosystems

1. GARDEN ECOSYSTEM (Example)

A garden is an example of an artificial ecosystem.



2. NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

These are found in nature without human interference.

- Forests
- Ponds
- Lakes



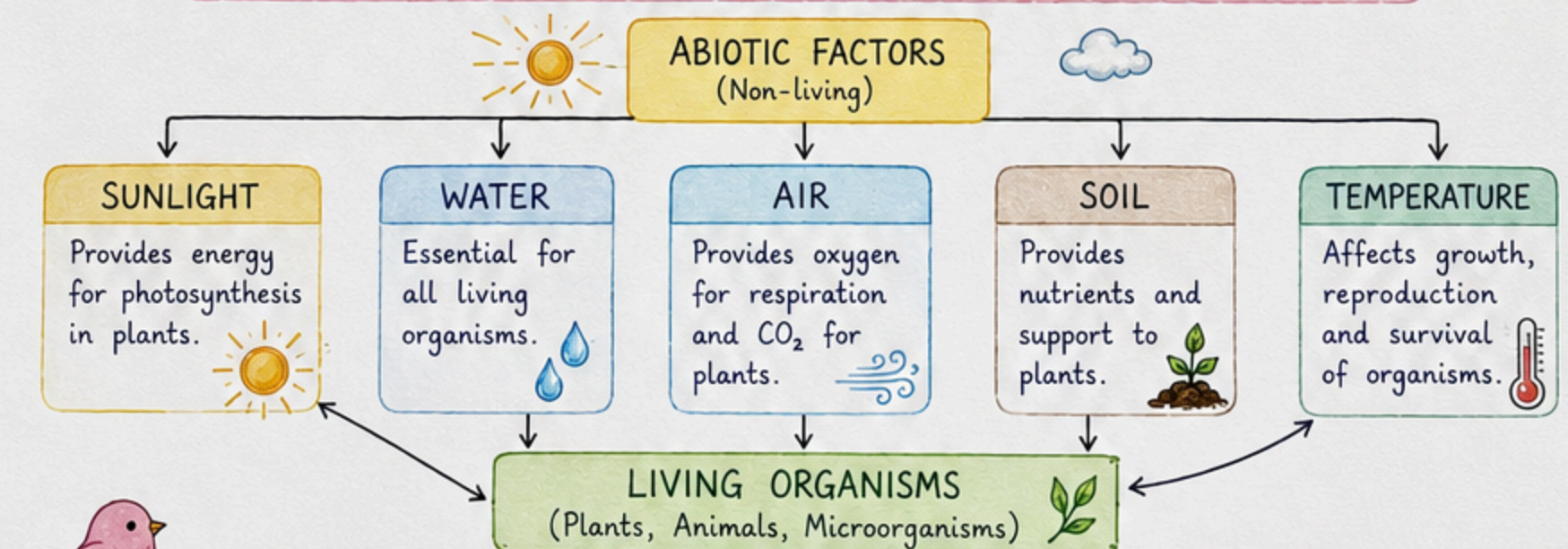
3. ARTIFICIAL ECOSYSTEMS

These are created and maintained by humans.

- Gardens
- Crop-fields



INTERACTION OF LIVING ORGANISMS WITH ABIOTIC FACTORS



All living organisms and abiotic factors interact with each other and depend on one another to maintain balance in an ecosystem.

KEY POINTS

- ✓ Ecosystems can be natural or artificial.
- ✓ Living and non-living components interact.
- ✓ Balance in nature is the key to survival.

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