

Unit 1: Interactions within ecosystems:

chapter 1: **Ecosystem** are all the living and non-living things in a particular place. Ecosystems consists of interacting organisms that live in an environment, as well as abiotic (non-living) parts of the environment that effect the organisms.

Abiotic: non-living things in an environment such as water, soil, air, or rocks.



Biotic: living things in an environment, frogs, wolfs, or worms are all biotic.



Ecosystems

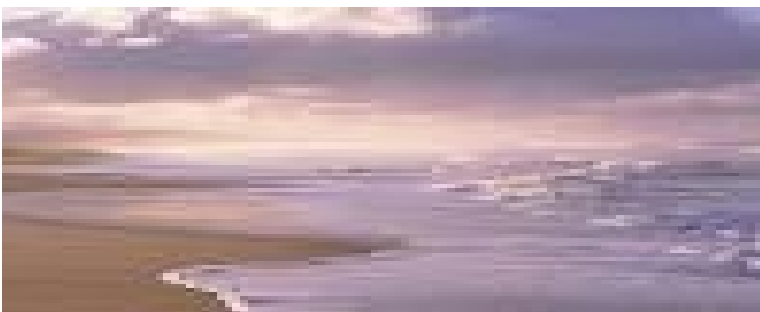
All ecosystems are different and unique. Some are very large others are as small as a rotting log. They all have one thing in common. They have biotic and abiotic parts. Some common ecosystems in Atlantic Canada are coastlines, rivers, lakes, the Arctic and forests.



Ecosystems in Atlantic Canada

1 Coastlines and Oceans

Atlantic Canadas Coastline is a difficult habitat. It is where the ocean meets the land. As the tides move in and out this habitat is sometimes covered by water and other times exposed to the air. Many animals live in this place such as muscles, barnacles, starfish and rock crabs.



2 Freshwater Ecosystems: Rivers, Lakes and Ponds

Freshwater ecosystems provide a habitat for many fish and other animals such as beavers, ducks and geese. Frogs and other small animals make their home in the water and many species of plants and insects.



3 Arctic

This region has very low temperatures and little precipitation, making it a cold desert. During winter the nights are long and the days are short. The soil is permanently frozen. This is called permafrost. There are no trees just small shrubs, mosses and lichen. Animals found here include caribou, musk ox, wolves, arctic foxes, arctic hares and lemmings.



4 Forests

Forest habitats cover most of our province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Balsam, fir, white birch and mountain ash are some of the most common trees found in our forests. Some of the animals in a forest habitat are moose, caribou, black bear, lynx, red fox, pine martin and mink.

