KEY CONCEPT

Every organism has a habitat and a niche.
14.1 Habitat And Niche

A habitat differs from a niche.

- A habitat is all aspects of the area in which an organism lives.
  - biotic factors
  - abiotic factors
- An ecological niche includes all of the factors that a species needs to survive, stay healthy, and reproduce.
  - food
  - abiotic conditions
  - behavior
Resource availability gives structure to a community.

- Species can share habitats and resources.
- Competition occurs when two species use resources in the same way.
- Competitive exclusion keeps two species from occupying the same niche.
14.1 Habitat And Niche

• Competitive exclusion has different outcomes.
  – One species is better suited to the niche and the other will either be pushed out or become extinct.
  – The niche will be divided.
  – The two species will further diverge.
• Ecological equivalents are species that occupy similar niches but live in different geographical regions.