**The Levels of Ecological Organization:**

**Species:** is a unique organism with specific characteristics and members of a species can mate with each other and produce fertile offspring.

Examples: humans, dogs, cats, maple trees

**Population**: is a group of members of the same species that live in the same area.

Examples: a colony of ants, a herd of buffalo, a flock of geese, the residents of Kitchener

**Community**: is made up of populations of different species that live and interact in an area.

Examples: fish, turtles and snakes swimming in a pond, cats and dogs

**Ecosystem**: is the interaction of the community with the local abiotic factors.

Examples: coral reef, aquarium, backyard pond

**Biome**: Large geographical region that contains similar ecosystems due to a distinct climate and similar biotic and abiotic factors.

Examples: tundra, rainforest

**Biosphere**: part of our planet, including water, land and air, where life exists. All the biomes combine to form the biosphere.

**There are 3 main components of the biosphere:**

1. **Atmosphere:** layer of gases that surrounds the Earth
2. **Lithosphere:** the Earth’s solid outer layer
3. **Hydrosphere:** all the water on Earth

**Ecological Organization**



 **Biosphere**



 **Biome**



 **Ecosystem**



 **Ecosystem**



 **Population**

 **Species /individual**

