



Name: Key

Interactions
(These are just some possible answers.)

Focal Level	Level Above	Example Effect	Level Below	Example Effect	Same Level	Example Effect
Biome	Not going beyond this level at this time.	Not going beyond this level at this time.	Ecosystem	Vegetation of ecosystem affects rainfall (less vegetation means less transpiration means less moisture in the air means less rainfall).	Biome	Urban biome interacting with desert biome (change of climate and traits of flora and/or fauna within the biomes.). Energy flow and matter cycling.
Ecosystem	Biome	Climate constrains resources available and organisms that can live there (e.g. freezing temperatures limit water availability).	Community	The types of communities present affects what resources are available and are used (e.g. nitrogen-fixing bacteria).	Ecosystem	Migration patterns of organisms (e.g. elephants, butterflies, etc.), nutrient cycling, and meta-populations.
Community	Ecosystem	Resources available can constrain NPP (total amount of plant growth) possible.	Population	Types of populations present explain community structure (grassland vs. forest).	Community	Emigration and immigration, (meta-populations).
Population	Community	Plant community structure affects what animal populations can live there (e.g. antelope live in open grasslands rather than forests).	Organism	Fecundity of individual organisms can affect total population size (bacteria, fungi, reptiles, mammals, plants, algae, ants, fish, etc.).	Population	Presence of a predator/pathogen/herbivore/etc. can affect the size of another population (fungal predator of nematodes)-trophic interactions.
Organism	Population	Population dispersal can affect an individual organism's ability to find a mate and reproduce (also, sexual vs. asexual reproduction).	Organ System	If a system fails, the individual becomes sick and may die (e.g. root system excretory system).	Organism	Competition for resources such as food, shelter, water, mates, etc. Parent-child interactions.
Organ System	Organism	Activity of an individual affects system function and structure (e.g. drugs/food/exercise), such as circulatory or respiratory function.	Organ	If an individual organ fails (e.g. heart), the entire system may fail (e.g. circulatory system).	Organ System	Root system ability to uptake water affects leaf turgidity (more water equals more turgid).

Focal level	Level Above	Example Effect	Level Below	Example Effect	Same Level	Example Effect
Organ	Organ System	Blood pressure influences diameter of blood vessels.	Tissue	Nervous tissue formation affects brain function and structure.	Organ	Heart failure can cause liver failure due to accumulation of fluids.
Tissue	Organ	Amount of brain activity affects connectedness (structure) of nervous tissue.	Cell	Proliferation of cells can change the structure and function of tissue (galls or tumors).	Tissue	Muscle and nervous tissue interact. If nervous tissue is damaged, muscle cannot function and is not toned.
Cell	Tissue	Connectedness of tissue cells constrains cell-to-cell communication.	Organelle	Type and amount of organelles present explains functions of the cell (e.g. chloroplast or mitochondria).	Cell	Transportation of water or nutrients between cells in vascular system of plants.
Organelle	Cell	Provides chemical environment in which organelle functions.	Molecule	Structure of molecules forming membranes determines its structure and what can pass through.	Organelle	Ribosomes and endoplasmic reticulum interact in the production and modification of proteins.
Molecule	Organelle	Rough endoplasmic reticulum modifies protein molecules.	Atom	The atoms that make up molecules determine its chemical and physical properties (N_2O is different from NH_3).	Molecule	Molecules react and interact with each other (e.g. nucleic acids; CO_2 and H_2O).
Atom	Molecule	Molecule structure can constrain reactivity of atoms (e.g. enzyme shape).	Subatomic Particle	The particles that make up an atom determine its chemical and physical properties (S is different from Ne).	Atom	Reactions occurring between atoms (e.g. oxygen reacting with hydrogen).
Subatomic Particle	Atom	Energy level in atom determines electron packing (placement in electron shells). Movement of electrons.	Not going beyond this level at this time.	Not going beyond this level at this time.	Subatomic Particle	The particles are repelled or attracted to each other.

