

## READING COMPREHENSION

### The Concept of the Ecosystem

Adapted from:

<http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange1/current/lectures/klings/ecosystem/ecosystem.html>

1. What is an ecosystem, and how can we study one?
2. Is the earth an open or closed system with respect to energy and elements?
3. How do we define "biogeochemical cycles," and how are they important to ecosystems?
4. What are the major controls on ecosystem function?
5. What are the major factors responsible for the differences between ecosystems?