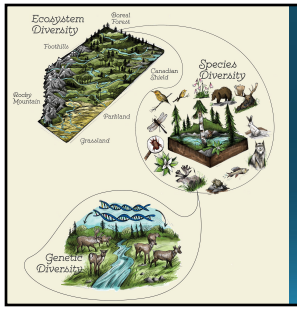


Biodiversity

Biodiversity

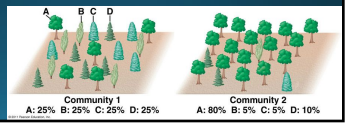
- . . . the variety of life within a given system
- Greater biodiversity = greater resiliency (able to survive a disturbance)
- Two types:
  - Genetic biodiversity
  - Species richness
- Disturbances can include:
  - Fire
  - Drought
  - Disease
  - Hurricane

Genetic Diversity

- . . . variety of genes/traits within a single population (of a single species)
- Reduces chance of entire population dying after an environmental change
  - Greater variety of genes = greater chance that some members of the population will be suited to new environment
- Example: peppered moths

Species Richness

- . . . variety of species within a single ecosystem
- Stabilizes the ecosystem as a whole
  - One species dies off, another is able to fill its role (niche) rather than the entire ecosystem collapsing
- Example: Dutch Elm Disease



Blackfooted Ferrets

- Play video →
- Biodiversity Lab