Community Structure and Dynamics

Answer Key

1. **Answer**: B

   Explanation: In mutualism, both populations benefit. For example, the relationship between plants and their pollinators is mutual. Predation, herbivory, and parasitism are just a few types of interaction that lead to one species exploiting the other.

2. **Answer:** C

   Explanation: The trophic structure is a pattern of feeding relationships consisting of several different levels. The sequence of food transfer up each trophic level is known as a food chain.

3. **Answer:** B

   Explanation: A food web is the natural interconnection of food chains and a graphical representation of what-eats-what in an ecological community.

4. **Answer:** D

   Explanation: Each species in a community has an ecological niche. This is the sum of its use of biotic and abiotic resources in the environment. That is to say, they fill and play a role in the environment they live in and everything it needs to continue existing.

5. **Answer:** A

   Explanation: Interspecific competition occurs when populations of two or more different species compete for the same, limited resources.

6. **Answer:** B

Explanation: A community has species diversity which is defined by two components: species richness and relative abundance. Species richness is the number of different species in a community while relative abundance is the proportion of each species in the community. The species diversity of plants often affects the species diversity of animals in the community.

7. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Introducing foreign species into the area alters this dynamic and often upsets the "balance" established in the community. These invasive species when introduced into an area can become destructive when they dominate over the native species wherever they find a suitable habitat.