

## Ecosystem Final Assessment

Your final assessment for this unit will consist of the following components:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Written Exam- Given Friday 9/23/2005   | 50pts        |
| Check <a href="http://www.nicenet.org">www.nicenet.org</a> - for a review sheet |              |
| - will be posted Monday evening   |              |
| 2. Ecosystem Lab- Done in class   | 50pts        |
| 3. Independent Study Option-  | <u>25pts</u> |
| To be selected by Monday 9/26   |              |
| Completed by Monday 10/10   |              |
| Total   | 125 pts      |

### Note:

You can earn up to 25 pts extra credit by completing an additional Independent Study Option. This option is available only to those students who have completed all other class assignments.

### Grade Scale:

A 125-112      B 111-100      C 99-87

### Ecosystem Lab

In class we have examined several important ecological concepts, including

- Biodiversity: Biological cores and corridors
- Ecological symbiotic relationships- predation, parasitism, commensalism, and mutualism.
- Nutrient cycling  
    Water cycle    Carbon cycle    Nitrogen Cycle
- Food webs- cycling of energy (food) through an ecosystem

You and your group will come up with a testable question that relates to the one of the topics listed above. You will then develop a hypothesis and design an appropriate experiment to test your hypothesis.

Example: Does excess carbon dioxide change the rate of plant growth?

How important are bacteria to an ecosystem?

How does the presence of a predator affect the behavior of its prey?

Is Graywater as healthy as tap water?

### Independent Study Options: 25 pts for each activity

The purpose of these Independent Study options is to encourage you to gain firsthand experience of our Sonoran Desert.