

1.4.5 Environmental Factors

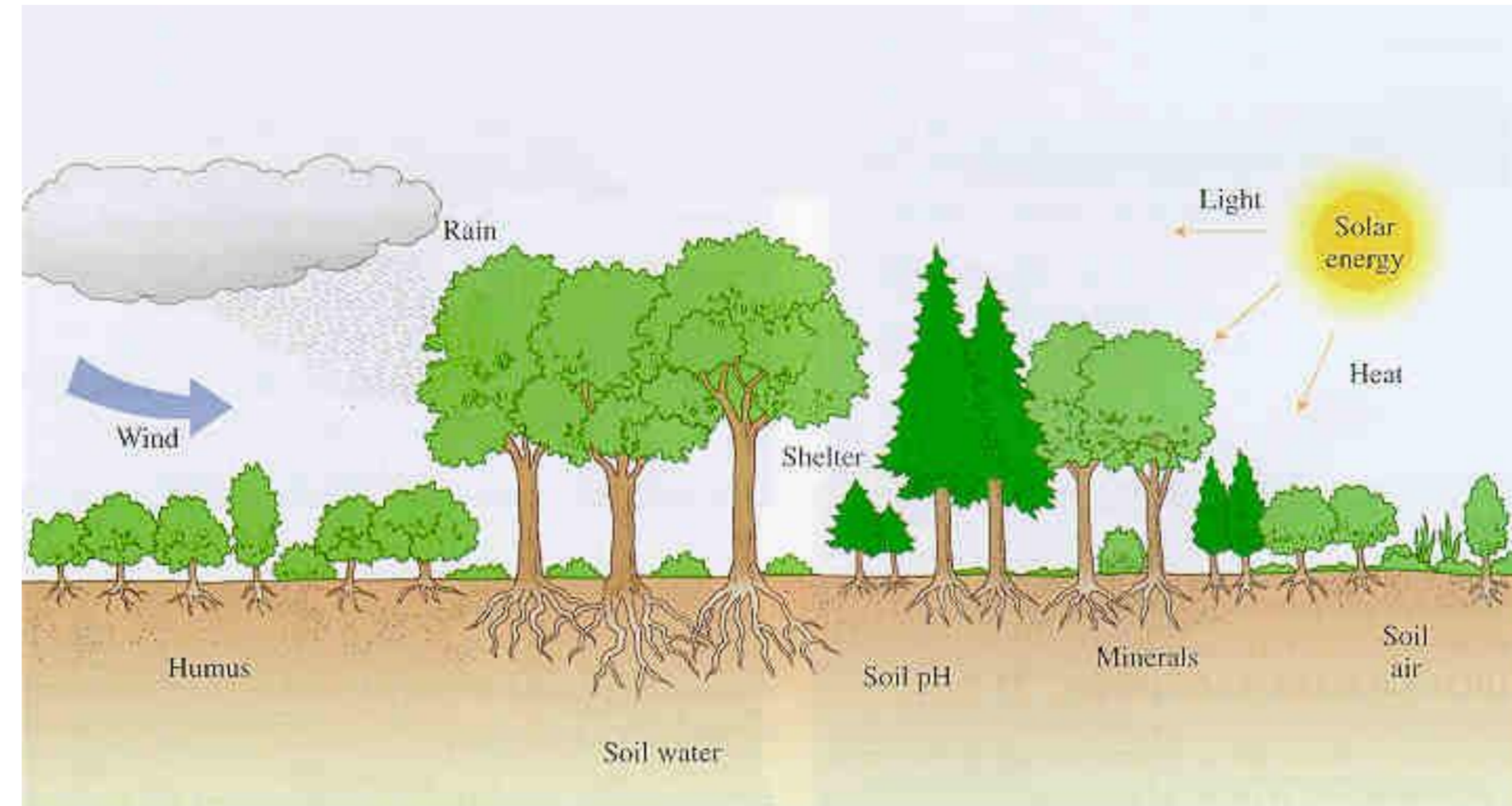
Abiotic factors

Are the non-living features of an ecosystem (i.e. the physical and chemical conditions) that affect the community.

Examples:

- Temperature
- Light intensity
- Air speed
- Water current
- Humidity
- pH
- Salinity
- Dissolved oxygen
- Nitrate, phosphate and other plant nutrients

Edaphic, Aquatic and Climatic factors are abiotic factors.



Biotic factors

Are the living features of an ecosystem that affect the other members of the community.

Examples:

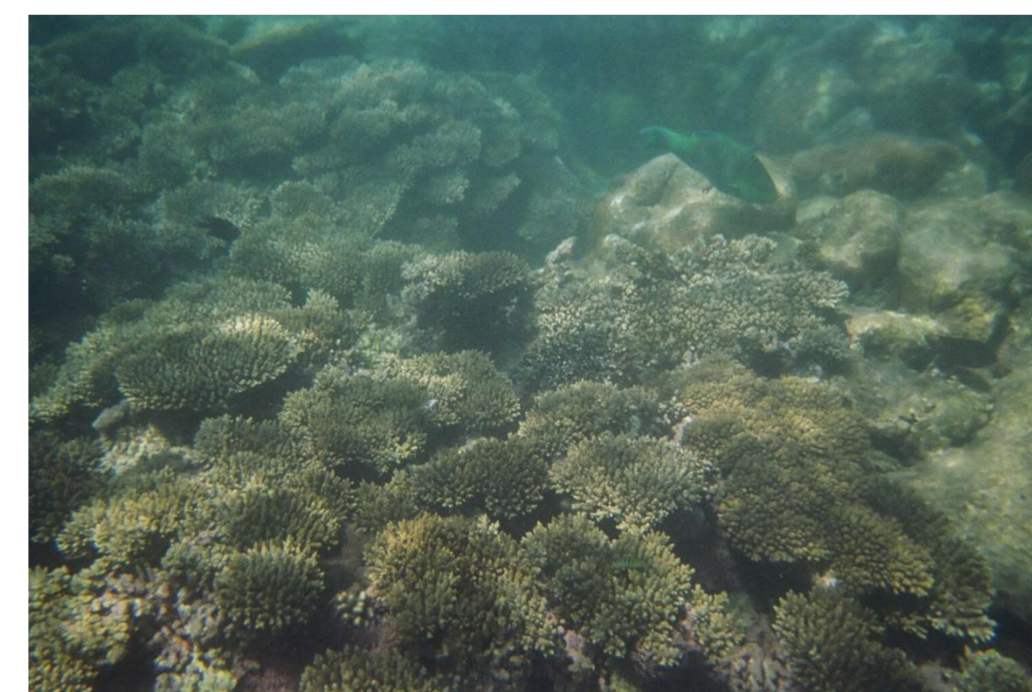
- Plants for food and shelter
- Predators
- Prey
- Parasites
- Pathogens
- Decomposers
- Competitors
- Pollinators

Aquatic Environmental Factors

Examples:

- Light penetration
- Currents
- Wave action

Some of the Abiotic, Biotic and Climatic factors are also found in an aquatic environment.



Edaphic Factors

Are the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the soil that influence the community.

Examples:

- Soil type,
- Soil pH,
- Available (soil) water,
- Air and Mineral content,
- Humus,
- Soil texture and Structure.

Climatic Factors

Are elements of the climate (weather) that influence the life and distribution of the organisms that live in a particular environment.

Examples:

- Temperature
- Rainfall
- Humidity
- Wind
- Light intensity (including seasonal variations)
- Day length