

biogeography - the study of where organisms live.

Greek bio = life, geo = earth, graphy = description of

Continental drift - the process of continents moving as a result of the movement of the huge plates that make up the surface of the Earth.

This is one factor that has affected how species are distributed in the motion of Earth's continents.

dispersal - The movement of organisms from one place to another.

Dispersal can be caused by wind, water, and living things, including humans.

exotic species - An organism that is carried to a new location by people

limiting factors - Three factors that limit dispersal of a species are physical barriers, competition, and climate.

Physical barriers - barriers such as water, mountains, and deserts are hard to cross and can limit the movement of organisms.

Competition - can be a barrier to dispersal. New species may not survive or existing species may be displaced.

Climate - The typical weather pattern in an area over a long period of time. Climate differences can limit dispersal