Factors affecting ecosystems

Environmental factors that affect an ecosystem can be divided into two categories:

- **Biotic components (the living components of an ecosystem)**
  Biotic conditions include the way in which organisms interact with one another and with their local habitat. These components exist between individuals of the same species (intraspecific) and between different species (interspecific). Examples of intraspecific interactions include competition or cooperation. Interspecific interactions include mutualism, competition, predation and parasitism.
- **Abiotic components (the non-living physical and chemical factors of an ecosystem)**
  These factors are numerous and vary dependant upon local habitat. They include factors such as light, radiation, temperature, water, chemicals, gases, wind and soil. In some environments, such as marine environments, pressure and sound can be important abiotic components.

1. After watching the video, complete the table below, using at least one example for each factor:

FACTOR	TYPE (BIOTIC OR ABIOTIC)	EFFECT THIS FACTOR HAS ON THE ECOSYSTEM
Amazon River		
sunlight		
temperature		
rainfall		
epiphytes		
predation		
carbon storage		

2. What names are given to layers of a forest?

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3. How do different layers of the rainforest contribute to biomass?

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4. Explain why trees of the Amazon rainforest provide a high amount of biodiversity and productivity.
