Homework #4

Format: Typed, double spaced. Please number your responses as shown below (i.e. DO NOT write one paragraph with all of this information mixed in).

1. Select an organism that interests you (ex. clown fish).
2. Name and describe at least one species interaction involving this organism in about 2-5 sentences. You must name the interaction with the terms we learned in class. If you describe predation, be sure to discuss some of the prey defenses and predatory behaviors to outwit these defenses. (ex. Clown fish have a mutualistic relationship with sea anemones. Clown fish secrete a mucus which protects them from the sea anemone’s stinging tentacles. The sea anemone provides the clown fish with a safe home while the clown fish attracts fish and lures them back to the anemone. The fish is then stung by the anemone and the anemone consumes the fish.)
3. Describe its ecosystem including both its community and habitat. You may present this information in a list or 3-5 sentences. (ex. Habitat = shallow water, tropical coral reefs; Community = parrot fish, butterfly fish, corals, eels).
4. Draw/describe a food web involving this organism (ex. Phytoplankton to zooplankton to juvenile fish to clown fish to shark). You can either list the names of the organisms or draw them (I’ll leave it up to you and your artistic talents). Did you include the sun, decomposers and detritivores?
5. Discuss how human activities influence some aspect of its life and/or habitat in 2-3 sentences (ex. destruction of reefs by boats, loss of habitat from pollution/coral bleaching, overexploitation of fish for aquarium trade).