

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading

Section: What Is an Ecosystem?

In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches the term or phrase.

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|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. biome | a. the place where a population of a species lives |
| _____ 2. habitat | b. a community and all of the physical aspects of its habitat |
| _____ 3. community | c. the variety of organisms in an area |
| _____ 4. ecosystem | d. the replacement of one kind of community by another at a single place over time |
| _____ 5. succession | e. the different species that live in a habitat |
| _____ 6. biodiversity | f. a large region characterized by a climate and its specific plant and animal communities |

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best completes each statement or best answers each question.

- _____ 7. An ecosystem is defined by the
- organisms living in a particular area.
 - climate of the region.
 - community and physical aspects of the area.
 - pioneer species that occupy the area.
- _____ 8. A measure of how many different species live in an ecosystem is its
- ecology.
 - biodiversity.
 - biology.
 - abiotic factor.
- _____ 9. A typical organism that might occupy a forest in the southeastern United States is a
- cactus.
 - wolf.
 - deer.
 - polar bear.

Directed Reading *continued*

- _____ 10. In which area would you expect to find the most biodiversity?
- a. a square yard of forest floor
 - b. a square yard of desert sand
 - c. the surface of a mountain stream
 - d. a rock recently exposed by a retreating glacier
- _____ 11. An ecosystem includes which of the following?
- a. microscopic organisms
 - b. large mammals
 - c. weather conditions
 - d. All of the above
- _____ 12. Which of the following can be considered an entire ecosystem?
- a. a small patch of farmland
 - b. the underside of a large rock
 - c. a stream flowing through a pasture
 - d. All of the above
- _____ 13. An example of a biotic factor in an ecosystem is
- a. an active volcano.
 - b. the number of competing species.
 - c. a river that floods frequently.
 - d. the intensity of sunlight in summer.

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

14. What is meant by the term *pioneer species*?

15. Why is Glacier Bay, Alaska, an example of how ecosystems change over time?

16. What is the primary difference between a freshwater ecosystem and a marine ecosystem?
