



ECOSYSTEMS ANTICIPATION GUIDE

Read each statement and decide if it is True or False. Complete the left column before the reading by circling the T for True or the F for False. Complete the right column after you finish the reading. Did any of your answers change?

BEFORE READING		STATEMENT	AFTER READING	
T	F	32 degrees Fahrenheit is freezing.	T	F
T	F	Australia is the windiest place on Earth.	T	F
T	F	Savannas are typically located near the Mason Dixon Line.	T	F
T	F	Ecosystems are where living creatures interact with non-living things.	T	F
T	F	Temperate forests have four seasons & more mild temperatures.	T	F
T	F	Deserts typically have as little as 10 inches of rain per year.	T	F
T	F	Deserts have high humidity.	T	F
T	F	An ecosystem thrives when everything works in harmony.	T	F
T	F	Scorpions and meerkats are examples of nocturnal animals.	T	F

DID YOU KNOW?

Antarctica has as much ice as the water in the Atlantic Ocean.

Ecosystems and Biomes

Name: _____

Answer the questions below. Then on the coloring page, color each numbered section with the corresponding color. If there is any space left over, color it your choice! Follow the directions provided to cite evidence from the reading.

Questions	Text Evidence	Answer
#1 What are groups of similar ecosystems called?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in PURPLE	Biomes RED
#2 On what continent is the largest savanna?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in GREEN	Australia BLUE STRIPES
#3 What is the top layer of a rainforest called?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in RED	Stratus ORANGE
#4 What is a tropical rainforest called?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in YELLOW	Savanna ORANGE
#5 What do grasslands have?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in ORANGE	Five BROWN
#6 What are the coldest of the forest biomes?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in PURPLE	Taiga GREEN STRIPES

Temperate grasslands are large landmasses with low growing grasses and wildflowers. They fall between the climate of the desert and forest. There isn't enough water to grow tall trees, but there's more water than in a desert.

Grasslands have two seasons: hot summers and cold winters.

Savannas are tropical grasslands with scattered trees and shrubs. They have rainy and dry seasons with warm weather. On savannas, you will find herds of animals. Savannas are typically located near the equator, with the largest ones in Africa.

The tundra biome is found in the extreme north. It accounts for 20 percent of the earth's surface. This cold and often frozen biome is dry. Beneath the top layer is frozen ground called permafrost. Tundras have little nutrients, which limits animal life. Some animals in the tundra change coats to blend in with the seasons. The arctic hare, ermine, and arctic fox are brown in summer and white in winter. Tundra seasons include long winters (8 months) and short summers.

Tropical rainforests, located near the Equator, usually get over 75 inches of rain annually. They are very humid and warm. Temperatures average between 70 and 90 degrees all year. Rainforests have 3 layers: the canopy (top layer of trees), the understory, and the forest floor. The canopy is home to most of the animals and plants. This includes many birds, insects, and reptiles. Some of these animals never touch the ground. The understory is where you can find snakes, leopards, owls, insects, frogs, and monkeys, etc.

Temperate forests are generally located between the rainforests and the taiga. The taiga's cold forested environment covers parts of Russia, Canada, Scandinavia and southern Alaska. Temperate forests have four seasons and more mild temperatures. Black bears, mountain lions, and wolves live here. You'll also find fox, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, porcupines, deer, and birds. Many of the animals have sharp claws to climb trees.

Taiga forests are the coldest of the four biomes. They are also called boreal or coniferous forests. They are covered in coniferous trees (evergreen). Winters can last for 6 months with short summers. Taiga forests don't receive much more rain than the deserts or tundra. Years ago, glaciers covered the taiga.

Marine biomes are the largest biomes. They cover most of the earth's surface. They include saltwater oceans. Over 90 percent of the earth lives in the ocean. Also, about 90 percent of volcanic activity takes place here, too. Freshwater biomes include ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands. Coral reef biomes include fringe, barrier, and atoll reefs.