

Directed Reading A

Section: Land Biomes

THE EARTH'S LAND BIOMES

1. Features of an environment that are not alive, such as soil, water, and climate, are _____ factors.
2. The living parts of an environment, plants and animals, are _____ factors.
3. A large area characterized by its climate and the plants and animals that live there is a(n) _____.

FORESTS

4. Name the three main types of forest biomes.

5. Why do deciduous trees shed their leaves?

6. Forest made up of trees that keep their needle-shaped leaves year-round are called _____ forests

7. What are two traits of conifers?

8. What are the three functions of the waxy coating on conifer leaves?

Directed Reading A *continued*

9. What are two reasons that few large plants grow beneath the trees of a coniferous forest?

10. Why do tropical rain forests have more biological diversity than other places on Earth?

11. Where do most animals live in the rain forest?

12. Where are most of the nutrients in a tropical rain forest?

GRASSLANDS

_____ 13. Which of the following terms is NOT a name for a grassland?

- a. steppe
- b. prairie
- c. canopy
- d. pampa

_____ 14. What prevents temperate grasslands from having trees?

- a. too much rain
- b. grazing animals
- c. deep roots
- d. rolling hills

_____ 15. A biome with clumps of trees and seasonal rains is a

- a. temperate grassland.
- b. savanna.
- c. desert.
- d. tropical rain forest.

_____ 16. Which animal is NOT an example of a large herbivore that lives on the African savanna?

- a. zebra
- b. wildebeest
- c. horse
- d. elephant

DESERTS

_____ 17. A region with few plants, little rain, and extreme temperatures is called a

- a. prairie.
- b. grassland.
- c. desert.
- d. savanna.

Directed Reading A *continued*

18. Name four adaptations of desert plants.

Match the correct description with the correct term. Write the letter in the space provided.

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| _____ 19. stores water from plants under its shell | a. jack rabbit |
| _____ 20. recycles water from foods it eats | b. spadefoot toad |
| _____ 21. uses huge ears to get rid of body heat | c. desert tortoise |
| _____ 22. buries self in ground during dry season | d. kangaroo rat |

TUNDRA

23. A biome with very cold temperatures and little rainfall is called a(n)

_____.

24. The layer of soil in polar tundra that is always frozen is called

_____.

25. Why are shallow-rooted plants, such as grasses and small shrubs, common in polar tundra?

26. What is the main way alpine tundra differs from arctic tundra?

27. Define the term *tree line*.
