

Biomes Webquest

Name: _____

Period: _____

Directions: Look around on the websites to find the answers to the following questions. Answer all questions completely.

Go to: http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/world_biomes.htm

1. What are the 4 main aspects of a biome?

- ① Climate
- ② Geography
- ③ Species
- ④ adaptations of species

2. Describe the leaves of trees that live in the taiga.

-long thin needles

3. How do trees in the taiga protect themselves from fire?

-have thick impenetrable bark

4. The changing of 4 distinct seasons is best viewed in which biome?

Deciduous Forest

5. Write down the average rainfall of all the biomes (HINT: click on the climate section of each biome).

| | Tundra | Taiga | Grasslands | Deciduous Forest | Chaparral | Desert | Savanna | Rainforest | Alpine |
|---------------|--------|-------|------------|------------------|-----------|--------|---------|------------|--------|
| Rainfall (cm) | 15-25 | 100 | 25-75 | 80 | 25-43 | 15-26 | 100-150 | 125-660 | 30 |

Based on rainfall, which biomes could be classified as a desert?

Tundra, Desert, Alpine

6. Identify the plants **and** their biomes below. (HINT: find the Plants link at the bottom of the home page.)

How have these plants adapted to their environment?



Plant: Barrel Cactus

Biome: Desert

Adaptations: -leaves reduced to spines } needs little H₂O
- stem stores H₂O



Plant: Mangrove

Biome: Rainforest

Adaptations: Can grow in brackish H₂O
(salty)

7. What does the term deciduous mean?

= shed 1 layer or shed leaves

8. What is the main difference between a hot and a cold desert (besides temperature)?

Sand vs Snow

9. Name three of the four major deserts of North America. (Click on the Mojave and Sonoran links)

Mojave, Sonoran, Great Basin, Arctic

10. Most hot and dry deserts are located near the Tropic of Cancer or the Tropic of Capricorn

11. What percent of the world's oxygen do tropical rainforests produce? 40%

12. What are the layers of the tropical rainforest?

① Forest Floor

② Understory

③ Upper Canopy

13. Where can you find a rain forest in Canada (use the map and key on the home page)? This is called a temperate rain forest. It may be a slightly different shade of green.

British Columbia

14. What is the difference between the arctic **tundra** and the **alpine** tundra (different links on home page)?

Altitude

15. Which is the youngest biome?

Alpine Tundra

16. What are the types of grasslands found in the Canada? What is key to their main difference?

Prairie

= taller grasses

= colder in the winter

17. What kinds of animals once lived on the prairies?

Buffaloy, Deer, Elk, Rabbits

Go to : <http://www.mbgnet.net/index.html> to get the answers to the rest of the questions

18. List three reasons why wetlands are important to ecosystems.

① Prevent flooding

② Habitat (Reproduction + Migration)

③ Food source

19. What is a watershed?

Common set of streams which drains into a large body of H₂O.

20. What is an estuary?

Where rivers meet the sea (fresh H₂O + salt H₂O = Brackish H₂O)

21. What kinds of plants make up the "forests" of temperate oceans?

Giant Kelp