



Where Animals and Plants Are Found

What I Need to Know

Vocabulary

- ecosystem
- food chain
- food web

What I Do

About Animals and Plants

Animals and plants are linked. They are connected. They make up an ecosystem. Not all the ecosystems are the same. Different ecosystems have different plants. They have different animals. You are part of an ecosystem. You are linked to animals. You are linked to plants. Different ecosystems are found all around the world.

Read and complete each Activity. When you are done, you will know how some ants help trees, how some birds help giraffes, and how a food web is made of food chains.



Name _____ Date _____

Activity 1

There is a plant in Africa. It has big thorns. The thorns cover the plant. The thorns keep the plant safe. They stop small animals from eating it. But the thorns do not stop big animals. Still, the plant is safe from big animals. Why?

The plant makes nectar. The nectar is special. It smells good to ants. Ants come. They eat the nectar. They live in the plant. When a big animal comes to eat the plant, the ants rush out. They bite! The big animal goes away! The ants keep their home safe.

The plant and the ants are linked. They are part of an **ecosystem**. An ecosystem is a system where plants and animals are linked. Not all the ecosystems are the same. You are part of an ecosystem, too.

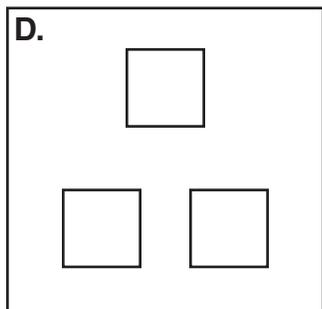
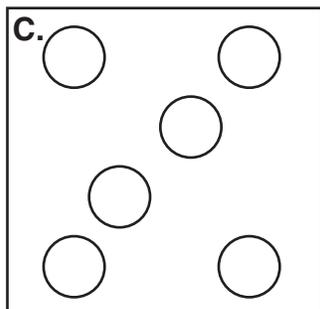
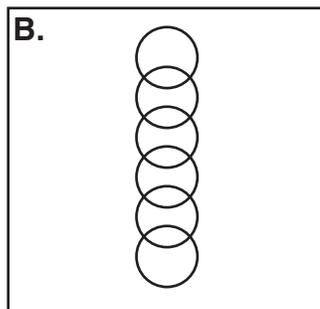
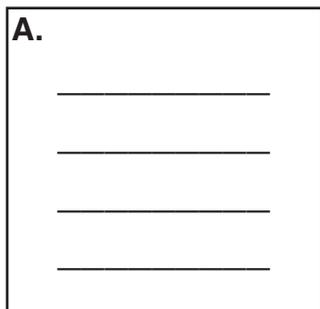
The plant and ants are part of a

- A. desert ecosystem in Asia
- B. forest ecosystem in Antarctica
- C. dry grassland ecosystem in Africa
- D. tropical rain forest ecosystem in North America

Trace the word *ecosystem*.

ecosystem

Which picture shows things linked together? _____





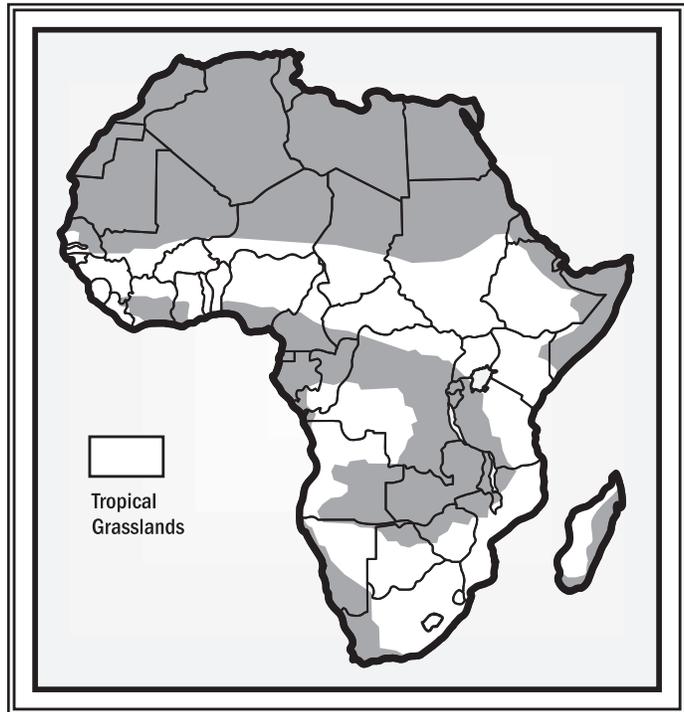
Name _____ Date _____

Activity 2

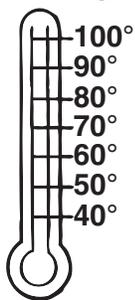
Think about dry grasslands in Africa. Dry grasslands in Africa are tropical. They are near the equator. There are some trees. The trees are in tall grasses. It is hot all year. There are two seasons. There is a wet season and a dry season.

Color in the dry grassland areas of Africa.

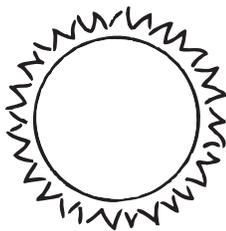
Color up to each number on the thermometers.



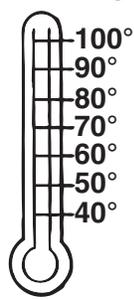
Average Daytime Temperature:



80°F (27°C)



Average Nighttime Temperature:

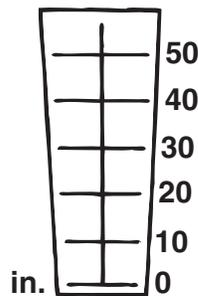


55°F (13°C)



Color up to the correct number on the rain gauge.

Average Yearly Rainfall:
10–**40** inches
(25–102 cm)



Is it warmer or colder where you live? _____

Does it rain more or less? _____



Name _____ Date _____

Activity 3

Giraffes are tall! They are the tallest land animals. They live in Africa. They live on dry grasslands. They are part of an ecosystem. It is a tropical dry grasslands ecosystem.

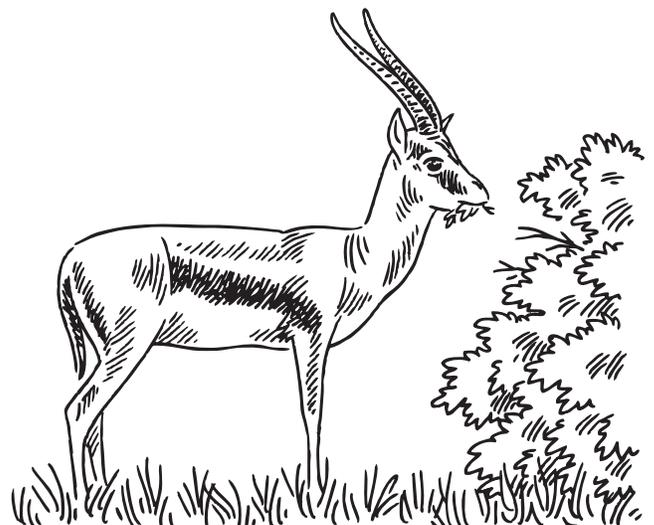
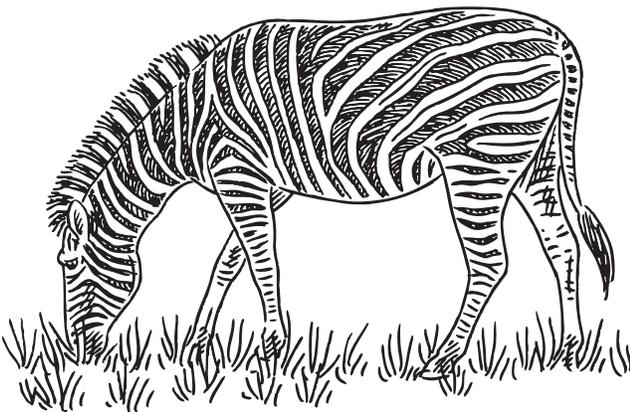
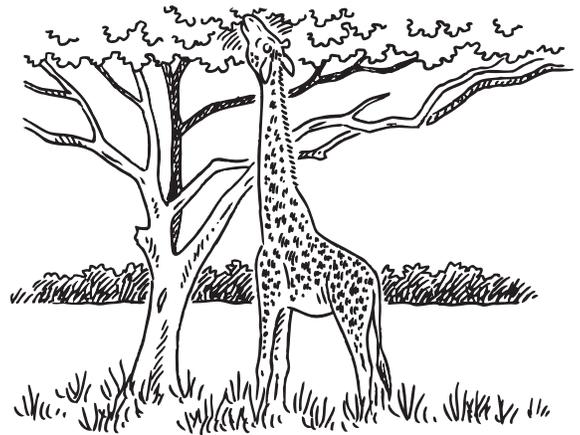
Giraffes eat leaves. The leaves are high on tall trees. Other animals eat leaves, too. The leaves are lower. They are closer to the ground on small bushes. Still other animals eat grass. The grass is very low near the ground.

In an ecosystem, different animals

- A. eat different things
- B. eat the same thing
- C. only eat from the highest trees
- D. eat grass only when there are no leaves

If every animal ate the same thing,

- A. the plants would stop growing
- B. the grass would grow taller
- C. there might not be enough food for all animals
- D. all the animals would grow as tall as a giraffe





Name _____ Date _____

Activity 4

One often sees birds on giraffes. The birds sit on the giraffe's back. They sit on its neck. The giraffe does not mind. Why?

The birds eat ticks. Ticks are small insects. They suck blood. The giraffe does not like ticks but it cannot get them off. The birds keep the giraffe free of ticks. They keep the giraffe free of other insects, too. The giraffe is happy. The birds are happy. The giraffe gets clean. The birds get food.

The giraffe and the birds are an example of how

- A. ticks eat plants in ecosystems
- B. animals are linked in ecosystems
- C. birds keep ticks safe in ecosystems
- D. insects are not part of an ecosystem

Fill in the missing words.

A tick does not eat plants. Still, a tick needs plants. Why?

A tick sucks _____.

Where does the blood come from? It comes from animals that eat _____.





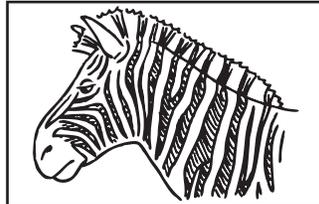
Name _____ Date _____

Activity 5

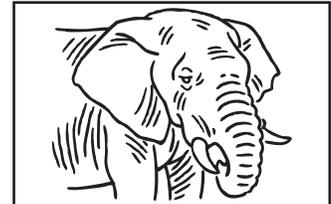
Giraffes are part of an ecosystem. It is an African ecosystem. It is dry grassland. It is tropical. Other animals are part of it.

Which animal is not part of it?

A. zebra



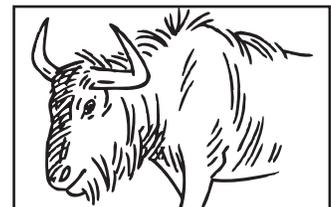
C. elephant



B. camel



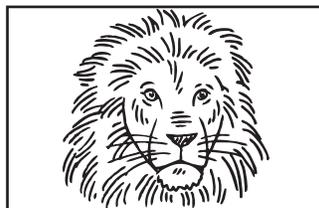
D. wildebeest



Some animals in this ecosystem hunt. They do not eat grass. They eat other animals.

Which animal does not hunt?

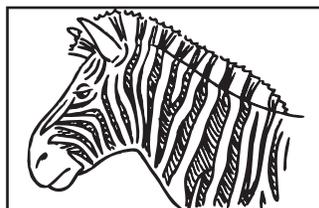
A. lion



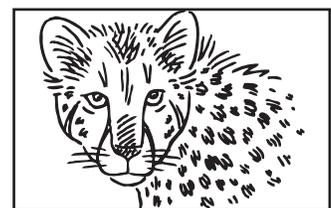
C. leopard



B. zebra



D. cheetah



List some animals that live where you do. _____

Circle the animals that hunt.



Name _____ Date _____

Activity 6

A **food chain** shows links. It shows who eats what. Not all food chains are the same.

Each ecosystem has different food chains. Fill in the blanks. These food chains are for Africa. They are for a tropical, dry grassland.

Use these words when you make your food chains.

Chain 1: grass, zebra, lion

Chain 2: cheetah, giraffe, tree

Chain 3: grass, wildebeest, leopard

Chain 1

Chain 2

Chain 3



g

t

g

Trace the words *food chain*.

food chain



Name _____ Date _____

Activity 7

Some birds eat seeds. The seeds are grass seeds. Other birds eat insects. Some insects eat grass. Some insects eat trees. Other insects, such as ticks, suck blood.

The **food web** shows how animals and plants are linked in an ecosystem.

Which animal eats insects and grass? _____

Which animal eats giraffes? _____

Trace the words *food web*.

food web

