



Where Animals and Plants Are Found

About Animals and Plants

What I Need to Know

Vocabulary

- ecosystem
- tropical
- marsupial
- temperate
- deciduous
- food chain
- extinct
- marsh
- swamp
- agriculture

What I Do

Many different plants and animals live on Earth. They all make up parts of different ecosystems. Animals and plants are linked to each other in an ecosystem. They are linked to the land. People can change ecosystems. One way is to plant new trees or crops. One way is to irrigate by watering plants through canals or ditches. One channels the water to where one wants it to go.

Complete the Activities. When you are done, you will know why mongooses were brought to Grenada. You will know why it was not a good idea. You will know about sloths. You will know what ecosystem they are part of. You will know where sloths grow their own food.



Name _____ Date _____

Activity 1

A sloth is a slow-moving animal. There is something special about a sloth's hair. The hair has a groove in it. The groove is like a long, narrow cut. The grooves are a perfect place for algae to grow. The sloth will eat the algae when it is hungry. Plus, the algae help the sloth hide. The green color makes it hard to see the sloth!



The sloth and the algae are part of an **ecosystem**. There are different ecosystems all over the world. In each ecosystem, plants and animals are linked to each other and the land in a special way.

The green color of the algae makes the sloth hard to see. This means that the sloth most probably lives:

- A. close to the sandy shore
- B. where there are many bare rocks
- C. in a place with many green plants
- D. high in the mountains above the tree line

Which type of ecosystem does the sloth most probably live in?

- A. desert
- B. mountain
- C. dry grassland
- D. tropical rainforest

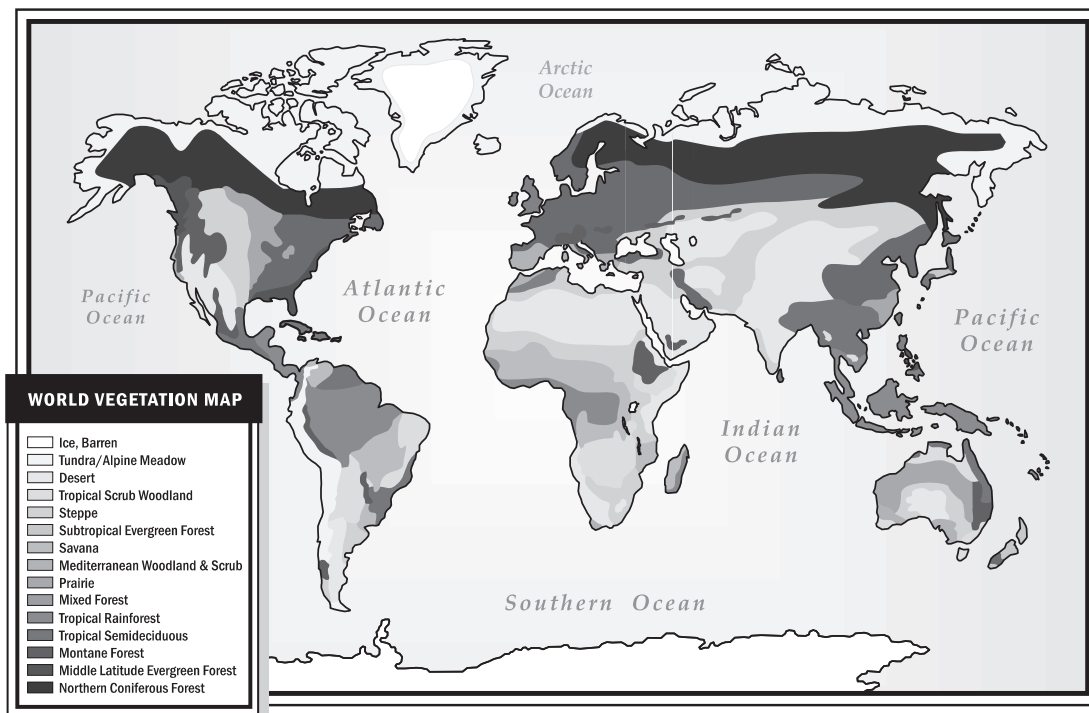
Activity 2

Think about **tropical** rainforests. Tropical rainforests grow where it is warm. Where would tropical rainforests most likely be located?

- A. near the coast
- B. near the equator
- C. near the mountains
- D. near the polar regions

Which animal would most likely be found in a tropical rainforest?

- A. camel
- B. monkey
- C. cheetah
- D. kangaroo





Name _____ Date _____

Activity 3

Find and label Australia on the map.

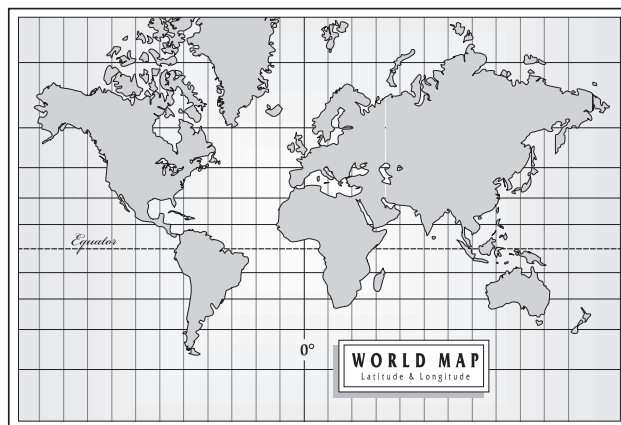
A koala is an Australian animal. It is a **marsupial**. A marsupial has a pouch for carrying its babies. Koalas are fussy eaters. They only eat eucalyptus tree leaves. Eucalyptus leaves are poisonous to most mammals. Koalas can go for months without drinking water.

The koala most probably belongs to which type of ecosystem?

- A. one where it is very cold
- B. one where it does not rain often
- C. one where only marsupials can live
- D. one where there is only one type of tree

The koala probably

- A. carries water in its pouch
- B. gets its water from the eucalyptus leaves
- C. doesn't need water because it is a marsupial
- D. won't drink water because it is a fussy eater



If you were a zookeeper, why might it be hard to have a koala in your zoo?

Activity 4

Long ago, eucalyptus trees were found only in Australia. Now, they grow many places around the world. In some places, eucalyptus trees have grown so well that they are outgrowing native trees.

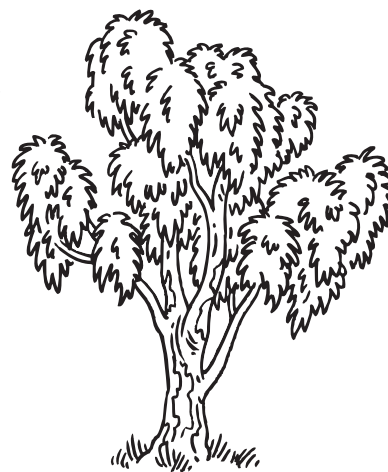
The spreading of eucalyptus trees is an example:

- A. of how ecosystems can never change
- B. of how humans can change ecosystems
- C. of how only one kind of tree is needed
- D. of how some trees grow better than other trees

Some coastal areas were heavily fished. Then the fishermen began to catch fewer fish. Most of the fish had been caught. Laws were passed limiting fishing times.

Fishing limit laws are an example:

- A. of how ocean life is limited
- B. of how fish swim to different areas
- C. of how humans try to maintain ecosystems
- D. of how laws stop people from eating what they want





Name _____ Date _____

Activity 5

Think about where you live. List some animals and plants in your ecosystem.

Name the type of ecosystem (e.g., city, forest, lake, coastal area, mountain, desert): _____

Animals: _____

Plants: _____

Think of a different ecosystem from the one you live in. List some animals and plants found in this ecosystem. Circle the ones that are also in the ecosystem where you live.

Type of ecosystem: _____

Animals: _____

Plants: _____

Activity 6

Some forests are **temperate** forests. Temperate forests are not tropical forests. **Deciduous** trees grow in temperate forests. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter. It is usually not very hot or cold in temperate forests.

What animal would you not expect to find in a temperate forest?

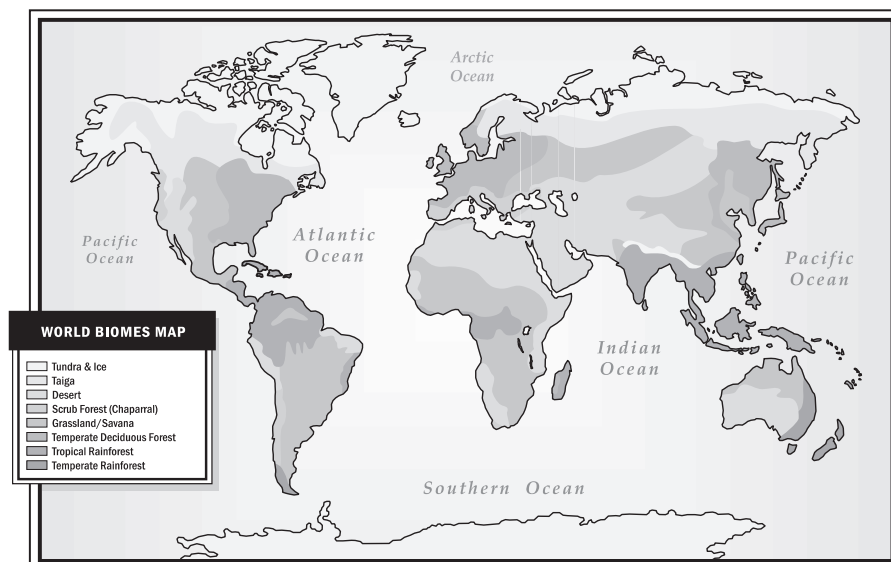
- A. deer B. rabbit C. buffalo D. squirrel

Which of the following is not a deciduous tree?

- A. elm B. pine C. apple D. maple

Would you expect to find a temperate forest near the equator? Why or why not?

Would you expect to find a temperate forest near the Polar regions? Why or why not?



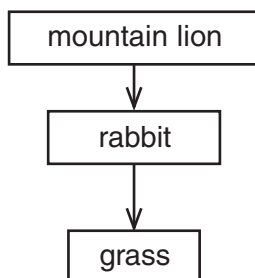


Name _____ Date _____

Activity 7

A **food chain** shows how plants and animals are connected. It shows how even though different animals eat different things, plants and animals are connected.

An example of a food chain is:



The food chain show us that:

- A. mountain lions eat grass
- B. grass is not important to a mountain lion
- C. mountain lions can eat grass when they are hungry
- D. grass is important to a mountain lion because it eats animals that eat grass

On the back of this paper, make a food chain of your own. You might want to make a food chain using one of the following habitats: forest, marsh, lake.

Activity 8

Vegetation and soil can affect where and how people live. Greenland is the largest island in the world. Today, most Greenlanders live in small towns or cities. The main business is fishing.

Find Greenland on the map. Use its location to help you answer the questions.

Where do you think most of Greenland's people live?

- A. inland
- B. on the coast

Does your answer fit the fact that most of Greenland's business money comes from fishing?

There are roads in Greenland's cities, but there are few roads connecting city to city. If people want to go far, they often fly. Why?

- A. People drive too slowly.
- B. Greenland is mostly an ice sheet.
- C. People in Greenland do not like to drive.
- D. People are afraid that the cars will break down.



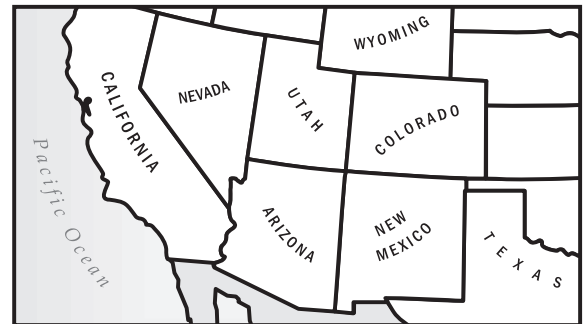


Name _____ Date _____

Activity 9

Find California on the map.

The California condor is one of the world's largest flying birds. It is a vulture. Vultures eat dead animals. The California condor is almost extinct. It is almost gone. Some people are trying to raise them in captivity.



One reason the condor might be almost extinct is because

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. the birds died of old age | C. people hunted the condors for food |
| B. all the condors were put in zoos | D. people have moved into and changed its habitat |

Vultures are an important part of the food chain because by eating dead animals, vultures

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. can live a very long time | C. do not eat animals that live near water |
| B. keep other animals from eating | D. help keep disease and bacteria from spreading |

Think of an animal that has gone extinct. _____

Why do you think the animal went extinct? _____

Activity 10

Find Grenada and India on the map below.

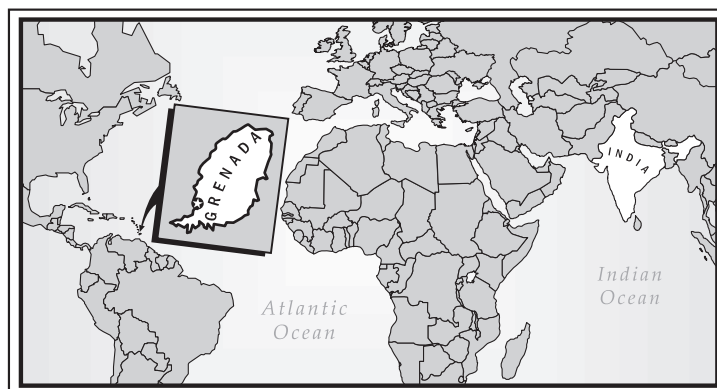
Grenada is made up of three main islands. A mongoose is an animal. It looks like a ferret. It comes from India. It kills rats, mice, and snakes. It is active during the day. Mongooses were brought to Grenada. Why? Sugarcane farmers were having problems with cane rats. It was thought that the mongooses could kill the rats. It did not work. Today, there are many mongooses on Grenada. The mongooses have caused problems for Grenada's native habitat.



One reason the plan did not work might be because

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. cane rats are active at night | C. the cane rats killed the mongooses |
| B. not enough mongooses were brought | D. the climate was too cold for the mongooses |

Can you think of an animal or plant that has been introduced to your region? _____





Name _____ Date _____

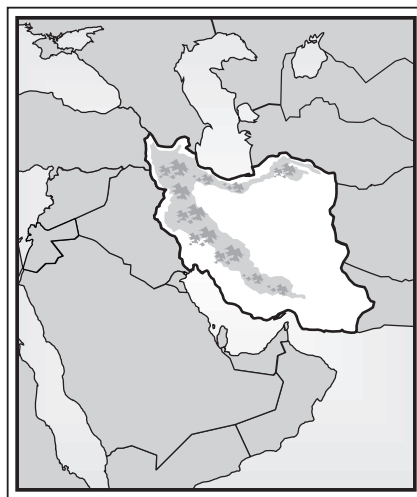
Activity 11

Find and label Iran on the map.

Water is scarce in Iran. Many towns get their water from an irrigation system. First, water from an underground mountain source is tapped. Second, the tapped water is channeled down. It is channeled down in a series of tunnels to the town level. Some of these tunnels are 50 miles (80 km) long!

What does this type of irrigation system mean for some towns in Iran?

- A. The towns are located high in the mountains.
- B. The towns are located close to the Persian Gulf.
- C. The towns are located in the middle of the desert.
- D. The towns are located a short distance from the foot of a mountain.



One of the countries below does not border Iran. Which country is it?

- A. Iraq B. Pakistan C. Afghanistan D. Saudi Arabia

How do you get your water? _____

Activity 12

The Everglades is an ecosystem that is made up of **marshes** and **swamps**. A marsh is an area of soft, wet land. A swamp is an area of wetland that is often covered in water. The Everglades is fed by waterways linked to Lake Okeechobee.

Which state are the Everglades in?

- A. Florida B. Georgia C. Louisiana D. Mississippi

Crocodiles and the American alligator are found in the Everglades. Animals at the top of a food chain eat animals or plants below it. Animals or plants at the bottom of a food chain are eaten by those above them.



Crocodiles and alligators are most likely near the (top/bottom) of the food chain.

Why? _____

How is a swamp different from a marsh? _____



Name _____ Date _____

Activity 13

Find and label Iowa on the map.

Iowa is a farm state. Only California produces more agricultural products. **Agriculture** has to do with farming. It has to do with growing crops and raising livestock. In Iowa, more than nine out of every ten acres are used for agriculture.

Iowa's prairie soils are rich. Grass as high as riders on horseback grows there. Still, large numbers of people did not move to Iowa to farm until the 1830s.

What might be one reason for this?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. The car was invented. | C. The steel plow was invented. |
| B. The telephone was invented. | D. The cotton gin was invented. |

Which rivers border Iowa?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Wabash and Ohio | C. Missouri and Mississippi |
| B. Rio Grande and Snake | D. North Platte and Colorado |

On the map, trace the rivers that border Iowa.

