

Biomes Reading Guide

Defining Temperature and Precipitation

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Begin on page _____ in your biology textbook.

1. What is the limiting factor for plants on the forest floor in a **tropical rainforest**? _____
b. How much of the sunlight that strikes the canopy makes it to the ground? _____
2. A common misconception about rainforests is that the soil must be very rich to support so many species. **What is the soil actually like in a rainforest?** _____
3. Using the **climatogram**, describe the average temperature and rainfall in a **tropical rain forest**.

Note: The word "arid" means very dry.

4. What is the **primary** plant life in a **grassland**? _____
5. What are **tropical grasslands** also called? _____
6. What is the "**limiting factor**" in a savanna? _____
7. Tropical grasslands are home to plants and animals that have adapted to what kinds of conditions?

8. What is a natural danger that results from the warm, dry conditions found in temperate grasslands?

9. How have **plants** adapted to that potential danger?

10. **Desert biomes** are characterized by why type of climate? _____
11. How much rain do **desert** biomes receive a year? _____
12. What are the 4 types of deserts?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

13. Give an example of a cold desert. _____
14. What are some of the ways that desert plants have adapted to the dry conditions?

15. What is the key feature of **temperate** biomes? _____

Note: Deciduous means “tending to fall off”. This is referring to the leaves on trees. For another example, your baby teeth that fall out are called deciduous teeth.

16. Precipitation in a temperate deciduous forest can fall as _____ or _____.
17. What characterizes this biome? _____
18. How have deciduous trees adapted to these conditions?

19. How is a temperate rain forest different from a temperate deciduous forest in terms of climate?

20. How is it different in terms of plant life? _____
21. What is the **Taiga** also known as? _____
22. What are the seasons like in the taiga? _____
23. What type of forest is dominant in the taiga? _____
24. How long does **winter** last in the **tundra**? _____
25. What is the frozen ground of the tundra known as? _____
26. How much annual **precipitation** does the **tundra** get a year? _____
27. What kinds of plants grow here? _____
28. What is the chaparral also called? _____
29. What sort of climate characterizes the **chaparral**? _____
30. Why are polar ice caps and ice-covered areas not considered biomes? _____

