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| **Earth's Biomes By Cindy Grigg** |    | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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|  | chaparral | certain | deciduous | taiga |  |
|  | seasonal | location | result | environment |  |
|  | equator | such | receive | particular |  |
|  | shrubland | therefore | form |  |  |

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**Directions:**  Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.

     There are places on earth that are unlike others. Each type of place is called a biome. A biome is a large area having a different climate and*(1)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   types of plant and animal life. There are several different types of biomes. There are deserts where there is little rainfall. There are rainforests where it rains up to one hundred fifty inches per year. The plants and animals that live in these places are very different from each other.
     Physical things *(2)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   as climate and geography determine what things can live in an area. Climate is the general weather of an area over a long period of time, including its *(3)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   changes. The climate of an area largely depends on its *(4)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   on Earth. Areas close to the *(5)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   receive more direct sunlight than areas close to the poles. *(6)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  , areas closer to the equator are warmer year-round. Areas nearer the poles have warm, short summers and cold winters. Sometimes geography determines how much or how little rainfall an area will *(7)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  .
     Biomes also have *(8)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   kinds of plants and animals that live there. That's because the climate mostly determines what plants can grow in an area. Certain animals who like to eat those kinds of plants will live in that area. The plants and animals that live in a certain type of biome are suited to living in that*(9)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  .
     As usual, when people try to sort things into categories, they have different ways of doing so. With biomes, scientists have different ways of categorizing them. As a *(10)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  , you may see different numbers of biomes given and even different names. To make it even more confusing, biomes are often given local names. For example, a temperate grassland or*(11)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   biome is known as a steppe in central Asia, a savanna or veldt in southern Africa, a prairie in North America, pampas in South America, and outback or scrub in Australia.
     Some of the more common land biomes are deserts, tropical rain forests, coniferous forests, *(12)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   forests, grasslands, tundra, *(13)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  , polar, and*(14)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   or scrub. Every biome is home to a special group of plants. The plants are well suited to living in that climate and to growing in the soil found there. Every biome is also home to a special group of animals. In one way or another, the animals depend on the plants to survive. All the plants and animals in a biome *(15)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   a community. In that community, every living thing depends on other community members to survive. A biome's climate, soil, plants, and animals are all connected this way.

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| 1.   | What is a biome?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  An individual organism and the food it eatshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  A colony of one type of organism living in a particular placehttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  A large area having a different climate and particular types of plant and animal life |

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| 2.   | What two physical things determine what can live in an area?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Climate and geographyhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Soil and rock contenthttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Available food and water |

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| 3.   | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mostly determines what plants can grow in an area.http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Soilhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Geographyhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Climate |

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| 4.   | All the plants and animals in a biome form a:http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Communityhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Populationhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Species |

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| 5.   | A temperate grassland biome is known by what other name in the United States?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Tundrahttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Prairiehttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Savanna |

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| 6.   | Why do particular plants grow in a particular biome?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  They are suited to living in that environment.http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Someone planted them there.http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Geography determines what plants live there. |

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| **Answer Key** |

     There are places on earth that are unlike others. Each type of place is called a biome. A biome is a large area having a different climate and ***(1)*  particular** types of plant and animal life. There are several different types of biomes. There are deserts where there is little rainfall. There are rainforests where it rains up to one hundred fifty inches per year. The plants and animals that live in these places are very different from each other.
     Physical things ***(2)*  such** as climate and geography determine what things can live in an area. Climate is the general weather of an area over a long period of time, including its ***(3)*  seasonal** changes. The climate of an area largely depends on its ***(4)*  location** on Earth. Areas close to the ***(5)*  equator** receive more direct sunlight than areas close to the poles. ***(6)*  Therefore**, areas closer to the equator are warmer year-round. Areas nearer the poles have warm, short summers and cold winters. Sometimes geography determines how much or how little rainfall an area will ***(7)*  receive**.
     Biomes also have ***(8)*  certain** kinds of plants and animals that live there. That's because the climate mostly determines what plants can grow in an area. Certain animals who like to eat those kinds of plants will live in that area. The plants and animals that live in a certain type of biome are suited to living in that ***(9)*  environment**.
     As usual, when people try to sort things into categories, they have different ways of doing so. With biomes, scientists have different ways of categorizing them. As a ***(10)*  result**, you may see different numbers of biomes given and even different names. To make it even more confusing, biomes are often given local names. For example, a temperate grassland or ***(11)*  shrubland** biome is known as a steppe in central Asia, a savanna or veldt in southern Africa, a prairie in North America, pampas in South America, and outback or scrub in Australia.
     Some of the more common land biomes are deserts, tropical rain forests, coniferous forests, ***(12)*  deciduous** forests, grasslands, tundra, ***(13)*  taiga**, polar, and ***(14)*  chaparral** or scrub. Every biome is home to a special group of plants. The plants are well suited to living in that climate and to growing in the soil found there. Every biome is also home to a special group of animals. In one way or another, the animals depend on the plants to survive. All the plants and animals in a biome ***(15)*  form** a community. In that community, every living thing depends on other community members to survive. A biome's climate, soil, plants, and animals are all connected this way.

Answers to Reading Comprehension Questions

**1**    A large area having a different climate and particular types of plant and animal life
**2**    Climate and geography
**3**    Climate
**4**    Community
**5**    Prairie
**6**    They are suited to living in that environment.