

Exploring Ecology: Elementary School Edition

Ecology · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which of the following organisms is a producer in most terrestrial ecosystems, meaning it makes its own food using sunlight?

- A) Rabbit
- B) Oak Tree**
- C) Wolf
- D) Mushroom

2. What is the primary role of decomposers, like certain types of bacteria and fungi, in an ecosystem?

- A) To hunt other animals
- B) To create new plants
- C) To break down dead organic matter**
- D) To photosynthesize

3. A forest is an example of a large _____, which includes all the living things and non-living things in a particular area.

- A) Habitat
- B) Species
- C) Ecosystem**
- D) Population

4. If a herbivore, an animal that eats plants, loses its main food source due to a drought, what is likely to happen to its population?

- A) It will increase rapidly
- B) It will stay the same
- C) It may decrease**
- D) It will evolve to eat rocks

5. Which abiotic factor is essential for most life on Earth and is a major component of aquatic ecosystems?

- A) Wind
- B) Temperature
- C) Water**
- D) Soil

6. A place where an animal or plant naturally lives and grows is called its:

- A) Community
- B) Habitat**
- C) Niche
- D) Biome

7. Which of these is an example of a consumer in a food chain?

- A) Grass
- B) Algae
- C) Lion**
- D) Sunflower

8. The variety of different kinds of plants and animals in a particular place is known as:

- A) Adaptation
- B) Biodiversity**
- C) Symbiosis
- D) Evolution

9. In a simple food chain, energy flows from producers to consumers. Which organism is typically at the bottom of this energy transfer?

- A) Fox
- B) Grasshopper
- C) Oak Tree**
- D) Eagle

10. When two different species live closely together and one benefits while the other is harmed, this is called:

- A) Mutualism
- B) Commensalism
- C) Parasitism**
- D) Predation

11. What term describes all the different populations of plants, animals, and other organisms living and interacting in the same area?

- A) Ecosystem
- B) Biome
- C) Habitat
- D) Community**

12. Which of the following is a non-living, or abiotic, component of a pond ecosystem?

- A) Fish
- B) Lily pad
- C) Water temperature**
- D) Dragonfly

13. Animals that eat only other animals are called:

- A) Herbivores
- B) Omnivores
- C) Carnivores**
- D) Decomposers

14. Which natural event can significantly alter an ecosystem by removing trees and other vegetation, impacting habitats and food sources?

- A) Rainfall
- B) Sunlight
- C) Wildfire**
- D) Dewfall

15. Why is it important to protect different types of habitats, such as rainforests and coral reefs?

- A) To provide more space for buildings
- B) To support a wide variety of plant and animal life (biodiversity)**
- C) To make sure there are fewer insects
- D) To increase pollution