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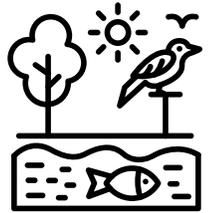
Ecosystems and Habitats

An ecosystem is a community of living and non-living things that interact with each other. Living things, called organisms, include plants, animals, and microorganisms. Non-living parts of an ecosystem include sunlight, water, air, and soil. These elements work together – for example, plants need sunlight and water to grow, and animals depend on plants for food and oxygen. Every part of an ecosystem is connected, and a change in one part can affect the whole system.

A habitat is the natural home of an organism. Different animals and plants live in different habitats that meet their needs for food, water, shelter, and space. For example, fish live in aquatic habitats like rivers and oceans, while foxes and deer live in forests. Even small creatures like insects have habitats such as grass, soil, or tree bark. When a habitat is destroyed or polluted, it becomes difficult for organisms to survive there. All living things in an ecosystem are linked by food chains and food webs. A food chain shows how energy moves from one organism to another. For instance, grass gets energy from the sun, a rabbit eats the grass, and a fox eats the rabbit. A food web is made up of many food chains connected together, showing how animals depend on different sources for food.

Ecosystems come in many forms – forests, deserts, wetlands, oceans, grasslands, and tundra are just a few examples. Each ecosystem has its own climate, plants, and animals that have adapted to survive there. For example, cacti store water to live in dry deserts, while polar bears have thick fur to stay warm in icy tundra regions.

Humans are also part of ecosystems, and our actions can greatly affect them. Pollution, deforestation, and overfishing can harm habitats and reduce biodiversity – the variety of living things in an ecosystem. By recycling, protecting wildlife, and using natural resources wisely, people can help keep ecosystems healthy and balanced.



Questions:

1-What is an ecosystem, and what are its living and non-living parts?

2-How does a habitat meet the needs of living things?

3-What is the difference between a food chain and a food web?

4-Give two examples of how animals adapt to their ecosystems.

5-How can humans help protect ecosystems and habitats?

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Ecosystems and Habitats

Multiple-Choice Questions:

6-Which of the following is a non-living part of an ecosystem?

- a) Tree
- b) Fish
- c) Sunlight
- d) Rabbit

7-A habitat is best described as:

- a) A type of food web
- b) The natural home of an organism
- c) A place where only plants grow
- d) A man-made shelter for animals

8-In a food chain, where does the energy originally come from?

- a) The soil
- b) The sun
- c) The air
- d) The plants

9-What kind of ecosystem would you most likely find a cactus in?

- a) Forest
- b) Ocean
- c) Desert
- d) Tundra

10-What does biodiversity mean?

- a) The study of plants
- b) The number of food webs in a habitat
- c) The variety of living things in an ecosystem
- d) The pollution level in the environment



Answer Key

Comprehension Answers

1-An ecosystem is a community of living (plants, animals, microorganisms) and non-living (sunlight, water, air, soil) things that interact.

2-A habitat provides food, water, shelter, and space for organisms to live and survive.

3-A food chain shows one path of energy transfer, while a food web connects many food chains together.

4-Example answers: Cacti store water to survive in deserts; polar bears have thick fur to stay warm in the tundra.

5-Humans can recycle, reduce pollution, conserve water, and protect wildlife to help ecosystems.

Multiple-Choice Answers

6- Sunlight

7-The natural home of an organism

8- The sun

9- Desert

10- The variety of living things in an ecosystem