

AP Environmental Science

Name: _____ Score: _____

1. An **ecosystem** is...

- ☐ all the living things in an area plus their non-living surroundings
- ☐ only the animals in an area
- ☐ a single species
- ☐ a type of rock

2. A **biome** is...

- ☐ a single ecosystem
- ☐ one species
- ☐ a type of soil
- ☐ a large region defined by its climate and characteristic life

3. Aquatic biomes are mainly divided by their **salinity**, which means...

- ☐ how warm the water is
- ☐ how deep the water is
- ☐ how fast the water flows
- ☐ how much salt is dissolved in the water

4. Which process **removes** carbon dioxide from the air?

- ☐ combustion
- ☐ photosynthesis
- ☐ decomposition
- ☐ respiration

5. Why can most living things not use the nitrogen gas in the air directly?

- ☐ it is poisonous
- ☐ it is too cold
- ☐ there is too little of it
- ☐ the N₂ molecule is very stable and hard to break apart

6. The slow breakdown of rock that releases phosphate into soil is called _____.

7. Water falling back to Earth as rain or snow is called _____.

8. The energy stored as new plant growth, available to consumers, is the net primary _____.

9. An animal that eats a producer directly is a _____ consumer.

10. Real ecosystems are better described as food _____ than single chains.

AP Environmental Science

1. all the living things in an area plus their non-living surroundings

An **ecosystem** is a community of living things interacting with each other and their non-living environment.

2. a large region defined by its climate and characteristic life

A **biome** is a large area with a distinctive climate and the plants and animals adapted to it.

3. how much salt is dissolved in the water

Salinity is the amount of dissolved salt; it separates freshwater from marine biomes.

4. photosynthesis

Photosynthesis takes CO₂ out of the air and stores the carbon in plants.

5. the N₂ molecule is very stable and hard to break apart

N₂ has a very strong triple bond, so it must first be **fixed** into usable forms.

6. weathering

Weathering slowly frees phosphate from rock so living things can use it.

7. precipitation

Precipitation is water returning to the surface as rain, snow, or hail.

8. productivity

Net primary **productivity** is the energy actually available to feed the rest of the ecosystem.

9. primary

A **primary consumer** eats producers; a secondary consumer eats primary consumers.

10. webs

Most animals eat several things and are eaten by several, so a **web** is more realistic than a chain.