1. An **ecosystem** is…

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

   ☐ only the animals living in an area and their food

   ☐ a single species and the place where it lives

   ☐ the rocks and soil of an area, without its life

2. A **biome** is…

   ☐ a single small ecosystem such as a pond

   ☐ one species and all of its populations

   ☐ a type of soil found across a continent

   ☐ 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 to most living cells

   ☐ it is too cold for cells to absorb

   ☐ there is too little of it in the air

   ☐ the N2 molecule is very stable and hard to break apart

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

   _____

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   _____

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.

    _____

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.

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