

Name: _____

Biome Research

Resources:

1. Your Science Textbook
Pages 728 - 735
Old Science Textbook
Pages 474-480
2. Missouri Botanical Gardens: <http://www.mbgnet.net/>
3. Blue Planet Biomes: http://blueplanetbiomes.org/world_biomes.htm
4. Temperature and Rainfall information can be found:
 - In the old Science textbook pages 474-480
 - CRCT Coachbook page 126
5. BrainPOP <http://www.brainpop.com>
Watch the following videos: (Will be shown on the Promethean Board)
 - Tundra
 - Taiga
 - Tropical Rainforest
 - Savanna
 - Desert
6. UnitedStreaming Videos
These can be viewed during class on the Promethean board

Research Questions:

Tundra:

1. Describe how the tundra would look during the summer. Include plant life.
2. What prevents plants in the tundra from sending down deep roots?
3. Is the tundra treeless? Why?
4. Name two animals that can live in the tundra year-round. What adaptations allow them to live there during the winter?
5. Name four animals that migrate to another biome for the winter.
6. Why does the tundra have a thin layer of soil in the summer?
7. Why is the tundra found at the tops of mountains?

Taiga:

1. What adaptations do pine trees have to allow them to photosynthesis in the winter?
2. From which biome do the migratory animals come from during the winter?
3. Why can't deciduous trees survive in the taiga?
4. What is the soil like in the taiga?

Temperate Deciduous Forest:

1. Why is losing its leaves an adaptation that helps deciduous trees survive during the winter?
2. Why is the soil of this forest nutrient-rich?
3. Explain the importance of decomposers in this biome.

Tropical Rainforest:

1. Why does the rainforest have poor soil?
2. Explain the three layers of the rainforest.
3. Why does the rainforest have such diverse plant and animal life?
4. Why do so many animals live in the canopy of the rainforest?
5. Why do the plants in the understory of the rainforest have large leaves?
6. Why doesn't the rainforest have seasons?
7. Explain the reason for the many vines in the rainforest?

Savanna:

1. Why does the savanna have trees but the grassland does not?
2. Describe the seasonal rain pattern of the savanna?
3. Which animals adapted to eat the foliage off the trees so they would not have to compete for the grass food source?
4. How is the elephant a keystone species for the savanna?
5. What is the role of the dung beetle in the savanna?
6. If the savanna received slightly less rain, what type of biome would it become?
7. If the savanna did not have periods of drought and wildfires, what type of biome would it become?

Grassland:

1. Why don't trees grow in the grassland?
2. What types of grazing animals were found in the grasslands before cattle ranching?
3. What types of grazing animals are now found in the grasslands?
4. If the grassland received slightly less rain, what type of biome would it be considered?

Desert:

1. How have animals adapted to the hot days and cold nights in the desert?
2. Why are there so few large animals in the desert?
3. How have plants adapted to the hot, dry climate of the desert?
4. Why aren't decomposers found in the desert?
5. What are succulent plants?
6. Why do cacti have needles?
7. How do the shallow, widespread roots of the cactus help it survive?
8. Why do some plants grow, drop seeds and then die in a matter of weeks in the desert?