



# **Terrestrial Ecosystems**

**Forests & Grasslands**

# **Terrestrial Ecosystem Organism Sort**

## **Directions:**

**In a group, sort your organism cards into the habitat into which each would fit best.**

**The three habitats are: grassland, deciduous forest, and rain forest.**

**Use your best judgment and work as a team!**



# What does “terrestrial” mean?

- In Spanish, the word ‘tierra’ means ‘land’.
- In French, the word ‘terre’ means ‘land’.
- In Italian, the word ‘terra’ means ‘land’.

What inference can we make about the meaning of the word “terrestrial”?

**TERRESTRIAL ecosystems are habitats that exist on land, not in the water.**

# Tropical Rainforest

**This ecosystem is home to the majority of the Earth's species of plants and animals.**

**Its climate is hot with tons of annual rainfall.**

**The frequent rainfall washes away nutrients, making the soil not very fertile.**





# Rainforest Producers



**Kapok Tree**



**Jambu Fruit**



**Vines**



**Orchids**



**Strangler Fig**



# Rainforest Consumers



**toucan**



**Leafcutter ant**



**lemur**



**marmoset**



**poison dart frog**



**Jackson's Chameleon**



**sloth**



# Discussion Questions

- Why do you think there so much biodiversity in the rain forest?
- There are very few plants growing on the bottom of the rain forest floor. Why do you think that is?
- What adaptations do you think organisms in the rain forest need to survive?

# **Deciduous Forest**

**The deciduous forest has a temperate climate and has trees that lose their leaves in the fall. North Carolina is located in this ecosystem.**





# Deciduous Forest Producers



**fern**



**Beech tree**



**Oak tree**



**Maple tree**



**moss**



# Deciduous Forest Consumers



**Black Bear**



**Box Turtle**



**Bobcat**



**Coyote**



**Chipmunk**



**Skunk**



**Red-Tail Hawk**



**Deer**



# **Discussion Questions**

- What adaptations do you think animals in the deciduous forest use to survive?**
- How does it help a deciduous tree to lose its leaves in the fall and winter?**



# Grassland

**A grassland is a large flat area covered with grass which has few trees.**

**Grasslands may be called prairies or savannas.**

**Grasslands have fertile soil.**





# Grassland Producers



**Blue Grama grass**



**Prairie flowers**



**Buffalo grass**



**Blue Bigstem grass ("turkey feet")**



# Grassland Consumers



**zebra**



**bison**



**ostrich**



**grasshopper**



**elephant**



**Prairie Dog**



**lion**



# Discussion Questions

- **Why is the grassland a good place for animals like zebra, bison, and elephants to live?**
- **What adaptations do these animals need to survive in the grassland?**

# Re-Sort

- **Flip your sorting mat over and sort your cards into producers and consumers.**
- **Now put the producers off to the side and focus on the consumers.**
- **Sort the consumers into herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores based on the diet listed on the card.**



# **Notebook Evaluation Question:**

**Ms. Tyson's class is going to Africa. They plan to visit the tropical rainforest in the Congo, and the savanna grassland in Zimbabwe. Rob says he is excited to see all the different kinds of climbing vines in the rainforest. Jessica says she thought that climbing vines are more abundant in the grasslands. Who is right?**

**Why are vines more suited to the ecosystem you picked?**