Ecosystems – Guided Notes

Review: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the condition of the bottom layer of the earth’s atmosphere in one place over a short period of time. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the term for the weather patterns that an area typically experiences over a long period of time. The climate of an area depends on a number of factors, including its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in relation to nearby \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I Ecosystems

1. An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is formed by the interaction of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which they live.
2. Various physical conditions affect the survival and growth of life in an ecosystem. These factors include \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sunlight, temperature, precipitation, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, soil, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is used to describe major types of ecosystems that can be found at various \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the world.

II Forest Regions

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Forest – found in areas nearest the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is warm and great amounts of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fall.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Forest – the dominant trees found in these areas are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, meaning they shed their leaves during one season, usually the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Forest – in colder areas and can survive long cold winters. Pines, spruces, and firs have long \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that only expose a small \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the cold and so can remain in the winter without freezing. They are names \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that protect the seeds.
4. Other Types – A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ region has coniferous and broadleaf deciduous trees growing together in the same area. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Forests include small evergreen trees and low bushes or shrubs.

III Grasslands

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grasslands – huge tropical grasslands or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grow in warm lands near the equator. There are usually three seasons in these areas. During the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ season the grasses grow green and tall. This is followed by a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ season, when the grasses turn brown and die above ground. The 3rd season is a time of naturally occurring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grasslands – the grass growing in cooler parts of the world. In North America these are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in Northern Eurasia and Central Asia they are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

IV Deserts

1. Deserts are not just barren expanses of land. Many animals and plants have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to survive with almost no water. Example \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plants, which store water in thick stems.

V Tundra

1. Temperatures are always cool or cold, and only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plants can grow.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tundra – exists in high mountains.
3. IN parts of the tundra a layer of soil just below the surface, known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, stays permanently frozen.