Communities and Biomes

Ch. 3

Reviewing Vocabulary

In the space at the left, write true if the statement is true; if the statement is false, change the italicized word or phrase to make it true.

_____ **1.** The *taiga* is an arid region characterized by little or no plant life.

_____ **2.** Small organisms that live in the sunlit regions of the ocean are *pioneer species.*

_____ **3.** *Humus* is a layer of soil that remains permanently frozen.

_____ **4.** A body of water near the coast that is partly surrounded by land andcontains both freshwater and salt water is known as an *intertidal zone*.

_____ **5.** *Succession* is the replacement of species in a community as environmental conditions change.

_____ **6.** The portion of the marine biome shallow enough for sunlight to penetrate is the *photic zone*.

_____ **7.** The portion of the shoreline that lies between high and low tide lines is the *aphotic zone*.

_____ **8.** Conditions that affect the existence, number, reproduction, or distribution of organisms are called *ranges of tolerance*.

_____ **9.** A *climax* community is a stable, mature community that undergoes little or no change in species.

_____ **10.** The colonization of new sites by communities of organisms is *secondary* succession.

_____ **11.** A large group of ecosystems characterized by the same type of climax community is called a *taiga*.

_____ **12.** The *temperate / deciduous forest* is a region dominated by broad-leaved hardwood trees.

_____ **13.** *Primary* succession is the sequence of changes that takes place after an existing community is disrupted.

Write the word or phrase that best completes the statement. Use these choices:

abiotic	optimum	soil	tundra
climax	communities	pioneer species	taiga
photic zone	salinity	tolerance	grassland
secondary succession	tropical rain forest		

1. _____ is the ability of an organism to withstand changes in abiotic and biotic factors in an ecosystem.

2. The first species to live in an area are known as _____ .

3. Shallow marine environments along coastlines exposed to sunlight are part of the _____ .

4. The _____ is the most species-rich biome.

5. The _____ biome occupies more area than any other terrestrial biome.

6. Natural disasters and human actions are reasons for _____ to begin.
7. Tropical rain forest and _____ biomes are both characterized by a thin layer of nutrient-poor topsoil that can support only shallow-rooted plants.
8. _____ are characterized by many different species of organisms and little or no succession.
9. Water temperature and light are two _____ factors that affect organisms in a deep lake.
10. The tides affect the _____ of water in an estuary.
11. The presence of coniferous trees as the dominant climax plants characterizes the _____ .
12. During primary succession, the decay of pioneer species results in the formation of _____ .
13. The greatest number of organisms is found within the _____ range of environmental conditions for a particular population.

Principles of Ecology
Ch. 2
Reviewing Vocabulary
Match the definition with the term.

_____ **1.** Tiny organisms that break down and absorb nutrients from dead organisms
_____ **2.** Obtains energy by feeding on other living organisms
_____ **3.** Step in the passage of energy and matter through an ecosystem
_____ **4.** Place where an organism lives out its life
_____ **5.** Relationship between species in which one species benefits at the expense of another
_____ **6.** Manufactures nutrients using energy from the sun or from chemical compounds
_____ **7.** Collection of interacting populations
_____ **8.** Simple model for showing how matter and energy move through an ecosystem
_____ **9.** Eats dead organisms
_____ **10.** Portion of Earth that supports life
_____ **11.** Relationship between species in which one species benefits and the other is neither harmed nor benefited
_____ **12.** Network of interconnected food chains
_____ **13.** Relationship between species in which both species benefit
_____ **14.** Study of interactions among organisms and their environments

a. autotroph
b. commensalism
c. decomposer
d. food chain
e. food web
f. heterotroph
g. parasitism
h. scavenger
i. trophic level
j. habitat
k. community
l. biosphere
m. ecology
n. mutualism

In the space at the left, write the word or phrase in parentheses that correctly completes the statement.

_____ **1.** Wind, humidity, and (mosses, rocks) would be considered abiotic factors in a terrestrial ecosystem.

_____ **2.** The size of a population does not directly depend on the availability of (food, decomposers).

_____ **3.** To show how the dry weight of living material at each trophic level of a food chain changes, you could use a pyramid of (numbers, biomass).

_____ **4.** In the nitrogen cycle, bacteria and (lightning, decomposers) convert atmospheric nitrogen into nitrogen compounds usable by plants.

_____ **5.** Some energy that passes through a food chain is lost to the environment as (heat, matter).

_____ **6.** Carbon and nitrogen are released back into the atmosphere during (symbiosis, decomposition).

_____ **7.** Both the alga and the fungus of a lichen benefit from their relationship. This relationship is one of (mutualism, commensalism).

In the space at the left, write the word or phrase that includes all the rest.

_____ **8.** trophic level, food web, food chain

_____ **9.** parasitism, commensalism, mutualism, symbiosis

_____ **10.** organism, ecosystem, population, community

_____ **11.** ecosystems, biotic factors, biosphere, abiotic factors

_____ **12.** omnivores, consumers, carnivores, herbivores, scavengers, decomposers

_____ **13.** evaporation, precipitation, water cycle, condensation, urination