**Words 1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | cactus |  | taiga |
|  | freshwater |  | tundra |
|  | grassland |  | tropical rainforest |
|  | sloth |  | desert |

**Words 2**

A polar bear hunts for seals in the Arctic winter. A baby eagle hatches from an egg high up in a forest tree. A sidewinder rattlesnake glides across the hot desert sand. What do these three scenes have in common? They are all examples of Earth's unique biomes .  
  
A biome is a community of plants and animals that live together in the same area. There are eight major biomes on Earth.  
  
**Aquatic Biomes**  
Oceans cover 75 percent of Earth, and many plants and animals fill this watery biome. Most of this ocean life lives near the surface, where there is sunlight and warm water. Near the coasts, coral reefs are part of this biome. Whales, dolphins, sea turtles, and many kinds of fish occupy the ocean.  
  
Freshwater biomes include rivers and streams, ponds and lakes, and wetlands. Only three percent of all water on our planet is fresh water. Unlike ocean water, fresh water has less than one percent salt. Fish, frogs, and pelicans live in or near freshwater biomes.  
  
**Terrestrial Biomes**  
The tropical rainforest is a very important biome. Half of all the animal and plant species on Earth live there. Tropical rainforests are near the equator .Over two meters of rain fall there each year. The Amazon rainforest in South America is the largest tropical rainforest. Animals such as jaguars, spider monkeys, and sloths live there. Otters, which live near freshwater rivers and streams, are also part of this biome.  
  
In temperate forests , new leaves grow on the trees in the spring. These leaves stay green until the autumn days arrive. Then they change color and fall to the ground. Squirrels, deer, foxes and bears reside here. There are temperate forests in eastern North America, Europe, Russia, China, and Japan.  
  
The taiga is a forest biome with evergreen trees. It is usually north of temperate forests. Winter days are short and cold, with lots of snow. Summer days are long and warm. Moose, foxes, and wolves all dwell in the taiga. Large areas of this biome are in northern Canada and Russia.  
  
The tundra is always frozen. This biome is north of the taiga. Very little rain falls here, and temperatures in the winter drop below -50 degrees Celsius. In the summer, over 1,700 kinds of small plants grow. Caribou, musk ox, and polar bears all live in this icy area.  
  
Grasslands cover 25 percent of the land on Earth. They have rich soil and plants with deep roots. There are almost no trees in this biome. Because of this, people have turned many grasslands into farms. In Africa, grasslands are known as savannas. Gazelles, zebras, rhinoceroses, and many other animals roam these savannas.  
  
The desert is the driest biome on Earth. Less than 25 centimeters of rain falls each year. Plants that can live without much water, like the cactus, grow well here. Animals such as snakes and lizards also make their home in deserts.  
  
Together, these eight biomes have provided a safe home for Earth's plants and animals for a very long time. By protecting our planet and its biomes, we can make sure that Earth's plants and animals continue to live in their natural, beautiful homes.

**Read 1**

1. over the world
2. desert
3. tropical rainforests
4. grasslands
5. biomes
6. tundra

**Read 2**

**Working in a Zoo**  
  
The zoo where I work is enormous , and we have about 4,000 animals here from all over the world.  
  
People love our snakes. We have a lot of them! There are rattlesnakes that glide across the desert, bull snakes from the grasslands, and vipers from the tropical rainforests near the equator . Recently, we opened a special area where we hatch snake eggs, and we have been breeding snakes since then.  
  
At the zoo, bears are also very popular animals. They live in many different biomes, from temperate forests to cold places, such as the tundra . One new animal we have is a polar bear named Boris. He has been here for about a month now. He comes from the Arctic tundra, so we have to keep the area where he lives really cold.  
  
Come join us and share your love for animals at our zoo!

**Read 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Biomes** | **Animals** |
| * deserts * grasslands * tropical rainforests * temperate forests * the Arctic tundra | * rattlesnakes * bull snakes * vipers * polar bears * snake eggs |

**Grammar in Use 1**

1.  The Earth’s eight major biomes have provided a home for animals for a long time.

2.  I’ve waited to see the deer in the forest for a whole year.

3.  Class started at nine o’clock. We’ve been listening to the teacher for about an hour.

4.  Government laws have protected the forest since 2001.

5.  How is your sister? I haven’t seen her for a really long time.

6.  I can’t believe we have to go home now! We’ve only been here for five minutes .

7.  I’ve been a teacher since I graduated.

8.  I haven’t studied science for a long time. I’ve only studied it since May.

**Grammar in Use 2**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Since when?** | **For how long?** |
| * I’ve been at school. * People have lived in houses. * My mom has been a teacher. | * 2005 * two o’clock yesterday morning * last year | * ten minutes * a thousand years * two weeks |

**Grammar in Use 3**

1. these scientists have studied sea turtles for 20 years .

2. she has lived in the taiga for 10 years .

3. the government has protected the forest for 50 years .

4. laws have protected marine wildlife since 1995 .

5. I have been at this school since I was six years old .

6. we’ve been students in this class for six years .

**Grammar in Use 4**

**1.** I've lived in this house sinceI was 10 years old.  
**2.** She has been a doctor in this hospital for12 years.  
**3.** We've waited fortwo hours. We can't wait anymore!  
**4.** They've studied tropical jungles forthe last 50 years.  
**5.** It's my turn. You've had the ball for ages!  
**6.** Have you been a student here since the start of the year?   
**7.** People have stopped hunting tigers since the government introduced new laws to stop them.  
**8.** Since this morning, I've done lots of homework.

**Listening**

* Plants are usually the lowest part of the food chain.
* Desert quails eat shrub seeds.
* Coyotes eat quails.
* Insects eat desert grass seeds.
* Snakes eat lizards
* Hawks eat snakes.

**Word Study**

1. catch
2. stitch
3. scratched
4. patch
5. itch
6. batch

**Writing Study**

1. the leaves stay green until autumn arrives .

2. the bird stays by the nest until the eggs hatch .

3. we won’t eat dinner until we go home .

4. pollution will continue until we do something to stop it .

5. some animals sleep until the cold weather is over .

6. the rabbits hide until the wolves go away .