

Active Reading

Section 1: Ecosystems: Everything Is Connected

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

An ecosystem is made up of both living and nonliving things. Biotic factors are the living and once-living parts of an ecosystem, including all of the plants and animals. **Biotic factors** include dead organisms, dead parts of organisms, such as leaves, and the organisms' waste products. The biotic parts of an ecosystem interact with each other in various ways. They also interact with the **abiotic** (ay bie AHT ik) **factors**, the nonliving parts of the ecosystem. Abiotic factors include air, water, rocks, sand, light, and temperature.

IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently, a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about main ideas.

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

1. What is an ecosystem made up of?

2. Biotic parts of an ecosystem interact with _____ and
with _____

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

3. Biotic factors are the _____ and
_____ parts of an ecosystem.
4. Abiotic factors are the _____ parts of an ecosystem.
5. The root word *bio* means "life." If you know that *biotic* means "having life," what can you guess is one of the meanings of the prefix a-?

RECOGNIZING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

One reading skill is the ability to recognize similarities and differences between two phrases, ideas, or things. This is sometimes known as comparing and contrasting.

In the space provided, write “B” next to biotic factors and “A” next to abiotic factors.

- _____ 6. animals
- _____ 7. temperature
- _____ 8. air
- _____ 9. dead parts of organisms
- _____ 10. organisms’ waste products
- _____ 11. water
- _____ 12. rocks
- _____ 13. plants
- _____ 14. sand
- _____ 15. dead organisms
- _____ 16. light

SEQUENCING INFORMATION

One reading skill is the ability to sequence information, or to logically place items or events in the order in which they occur.

Sequence the statements below to show the order in which the information was presented in the passage. Write “1” on the line in front of the first information presented, “2” in front of the next information presented, and so on.

- _____ 17. The definition of biotic factors is given.
- _____ 18. Examples of abiotic factors are given.
- _____ 19. Examples of biotic factors are given.
- _____ 20. Interactions of biotic and abiotic factors are discussed.
- _____ 21. The definition of abiotic factors is given.