

Ecology Grasslands Biome Guided Reading Worksheet 5-2-11

<http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/grasslands.htm>

1. Describe the main features of the grassland biome.
2. Exactly what is a grassland?
3. What 3 factors prevent trees from growing in the grasslands?
4. Explain why grasses can survive fires.
5. What soil characteristics also prevent trees from growing in a grassland?
6. Give another name for grasslands.
7. Give the 2 kinds of grasslands the the difference in climates they grow in.
8. Where in the world are grasslands located?
9. Explain what a pampas is and where it is located.
10. What kind of grass grows in the pampas and why?
11. Where are the steppes located and what is the climate and kind of grass that grows there?
12. Give the temperature range of the grassland biomes.
13. What determines the length of the growing season in the tropical and subtropical grasslands?
14. Give the rainfall difference between temperate and tropical grasslands.
15. Give 6 examples of plants that grow on the grassland biome.
16. Give 3 examples of birds that live in the grasslands.
17. Give 3 examples of insects that live in the grasslands.
18. Give 3 examples of animals the live on the grasslands.

<http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/prairie.htm>

19. Explain what the word prairie actually means.
20. Give the general geographic location of the praries.
21. What happens to rainfall moving east to west in the prairies? Why?
22. Give another name for the tall grass prairie and what 3 kinds of plants grow there.
23. Where are the mixed grass prairies located? Shortgrass?
24. Explain what a rain shadow is and where it is located.
25. Explain what the 'dust bowl' was and what caused it.
26. What causes the climate in the prairie region of the US?
27. Describe 2 ways the prairie plants adapted to fires in the prairie region?
28. How are these plants kept alive during the winters?
29. Explain why prairie soil is so fertile.
30. Give 4 examples of animals that used to thrive in the prairies before the west was opened up.
31. What 2 ways did these animals actually help the prairies?
32. What has happened to our modern prairies?