

Name: _____

Temperate Forests

By Anita Kim Venegas



Temperate forests cover about 25 percent of the land surface on Earth. Latitude, precipitation, and temperature determine whether a forest is temperate or tropical. Temperate forests include both coniferous and deciduous trees. Coniferous trees can grow at higher altitudes than most trees, but sometimes



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Deciduous trees are found in areas with cool to cold winters. During autumn, the leaves change from green to yellow, orange, red, or brown. Fallen leaves decay, or break down, over time. The forest floor becomes a nutrient-rich environment for seeds. The following spring, buds form on the branches of deciduous trees and drop their seeds. Seeds may disperse into the wind or water. Adult beetles may also lay eggs in the cracked bark of the broadleaf trees.

Trees in the temperate forests provide shelter to squirrels and chipmunks, as well as nesting areas for owls and other birds. Many species of mammals and birds live in temperate forests. The seasons affect which foods the animals eat. In spring, animals will graze on soft grasses and flowers; in winter, they chew on bark and twigs. Hibernating animals eat additional food in the summer and fall, as well as gather and store food in dens or burrows for the long winter. In the spring, wildlife can be seen, and sometimes heard, throughout the forests.

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1. Which of the following is true about coniferous trees?
 - a. Insects can always chew through their bark.
 - b. Their cones disperse seeds in the summer.
 - c. They lose both their cones and needle-like leaves in the winter.
 - d. They grow best in warm, dry climates.



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3. Boreal forests are another type of forest environment. They make up about 33% of the land surface on Earth. How much of Earth's land surface is *neither* temperate nor boreal forest? _____
4. Which of the following was *not* one of the author's purposes?
 - a. to give details about plants and animals found in temperate forests
 - b. to explain the main differences between coniferous and deciduous trees
 - c. to compare temperate forests with rainforests
 - d. to describe how different animals survive in temperate forests
5. How does rainfall affect beetles that lay eggs in coniferous trees?

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



1. ___ r o ___ g ___ t

clue: lack of rain

1. _____



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5. ___ e c ___ ___ u o ___ s

clue: trees that lose their leaves every year

5. _____

6. l ___ ___ i ___ u ___ e

clue: distance north or south from the equator

6. _____

7. ___ o ___ i ___ e r ___ ___ s

clue: trees that keep needle-like leaves all year

7. _____

8. a ___ ___ i t ___ d ___

clue: height above sea level

8. _____

9. ___ e ___ ___ y

clue: to break down

9. _____

10. ___ r ___ ___ i p ___ t a ___ i o ___

clue: any form of water falling from air to ground

10. _____

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In the article, "Temperate Forests," you learned that temperate forests contain both coniferous and deciduous trees. Although some trees may have characteristics of both, all trees are considered either coniferous or deciduous.

Every state has an official state tree. Use the internet to find out what your state tree is.



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d. to describe how different animals survive in temperate forests

5. How does rainfall affect beetles that lay eggs in coniferous trees? **Answers will vary.**
Coniferous tree bark is only soft when it's dry. If there is a lot of rain, beetles can't chew through the bark to lay eggs.

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9. d e c a y
clue: to break down

9. decay

10. p r e c i p i t a t i o n
clue: any form of water falling from air to ground

10. precipitation