

Understanding Food Chains

Decoding Ecosystems

Let's see if you can decode the names of the ecosystems below. Each one has a clue. There are lines to write your answer on, with one line for each letter. Under the lines, there are math problems for you to do to find the right letters for the answer. Be careful and watch the signs in the math problems—some are addition and some are subtraction. When you do the math problem, look for the number in the chart at the top of the page and write the letter for that number on the line.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. This ecosystem is in a country that is its own continent, surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Some of its areas are covered with trees and tall grass.

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} \\ 10-9 & 10+11 & 8+11 & 10+10 & 10+8 & 2-1 & 4+8 & 5+4 & 5-4 & 7+7 \\ \\ \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} \\ 12+11 & 8+7 & 10+5 & 2+2 & 6+6 & 6-5 & 9+5 & 9-5 & 10+9 & \end{array}$$

2. This ecosystem is sometimes called a taiga. It is an evergreen forest that sits like a giant hat on the Northern Hemisphere.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} \text{ forest} \\ 6-4 & 14+1 & 14+4 & 7-2 & 6-5 & 7+5 & \end{array}$$

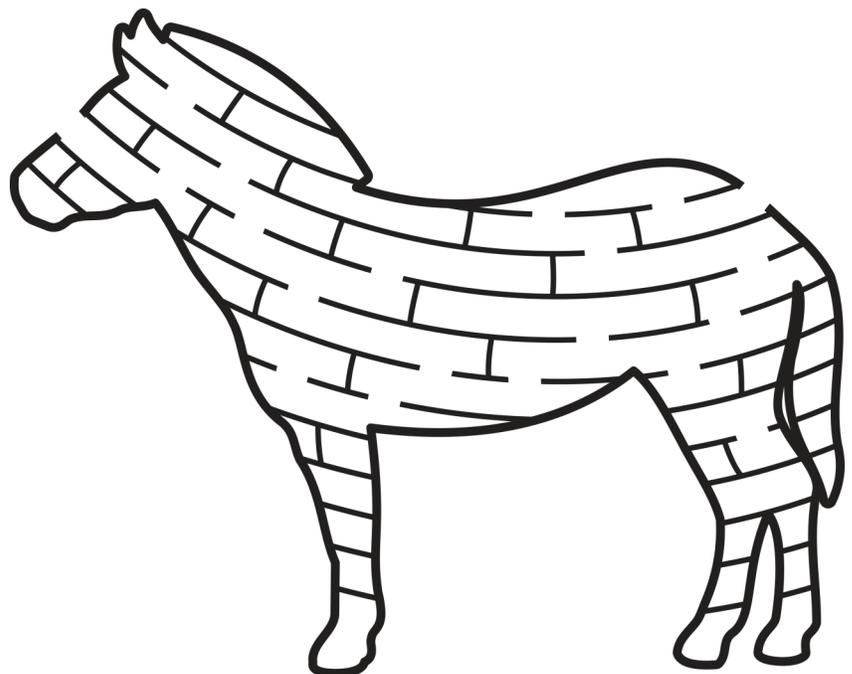
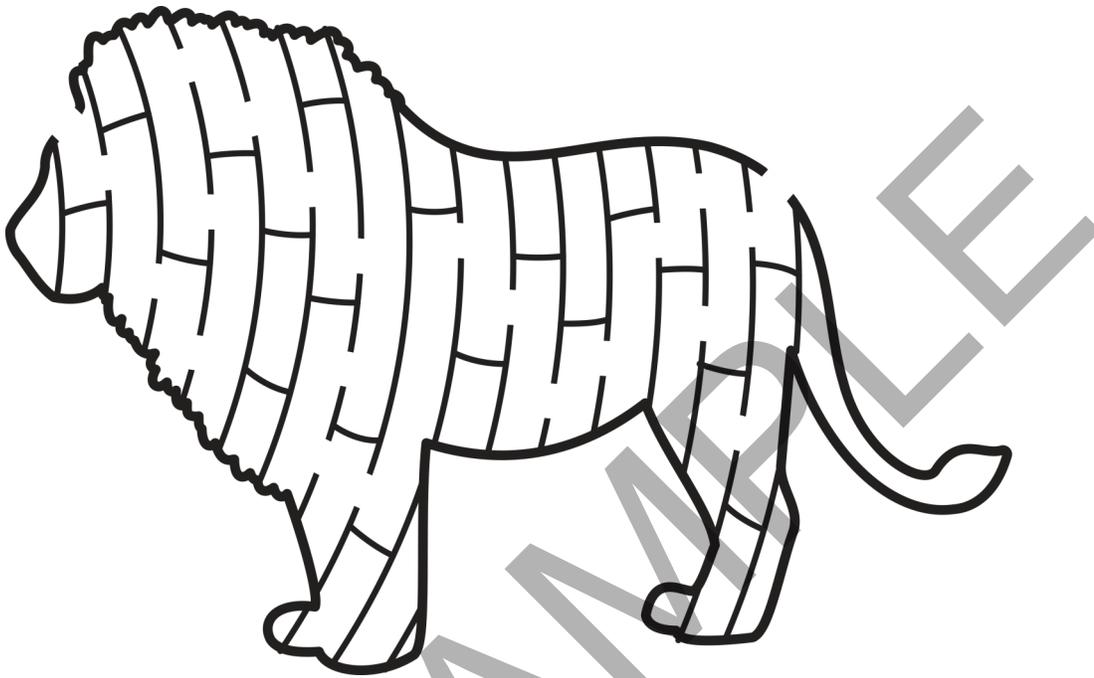
3. This ecosystem is a type of evergreen forest not as far north as the taiga.

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccc} \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} \text{ forest} \\ 6-3 & 6+9 & 12+2 & 6+3 & 3+3 & 10-5 & 9+9 & 13+2 & 15+6 & 15+4 \end{array}$$

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Animals of the Grasslands Ecosystem

The lion and the zebra are both part of the grasslands ecosystem. The lion preys on the zebra. Do the lion and zebra mazes below to help you remember that both animals are part of the grasslands ecosystem.



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Scrambled Ecosystems

See if you can unscramble the words that tell us about different ecosystems. There is a clue for each ecosystem to unscramble. If you need more help, all the words you need are listed in the word bank at the end of the activity.

1. This ecosystem is the area around the North Pole. It is the most northern part of the planet and includes the Arctic Ocean and parts of Asia, Europe, and North America.

c A c r t i

2. This ecosystem is a very dry area that you can find on almost every continent in the world. Very little can survive there.

s e t e r d

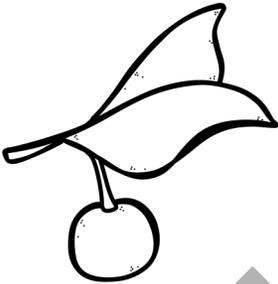
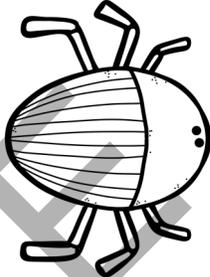
3. This ecosystem is a place that is flooded most or even all of the year.

s r m a h

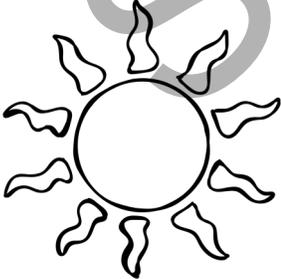
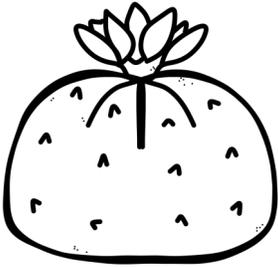
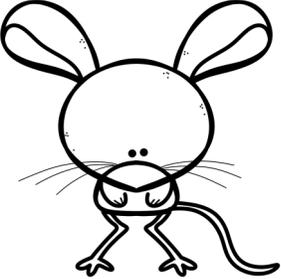
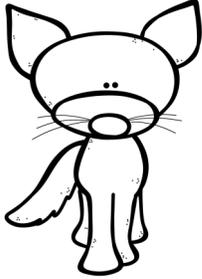
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What Part of the Food Chain is Missing?

At the end of this activity are five pictures. Cut them out and paste each in the boxes to finish each of the food chains.

Australian Woodlands		
		
		

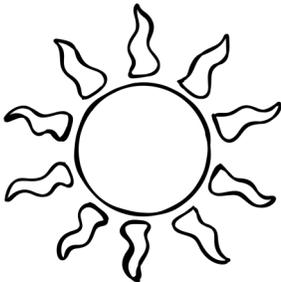
Clue: What part of the food chain gives plants energy to grow?

Desert		
		
		

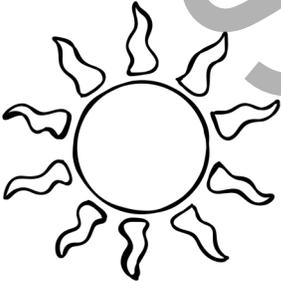
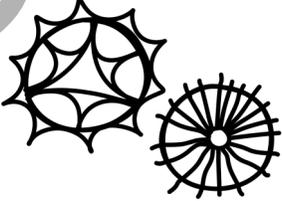
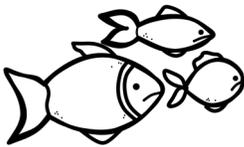
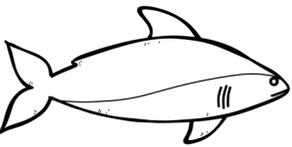
Clue: What reptile from your choices could you find in the desert?

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What Part of the Food Chain is Missing? (continued)

Marsh		
		
		

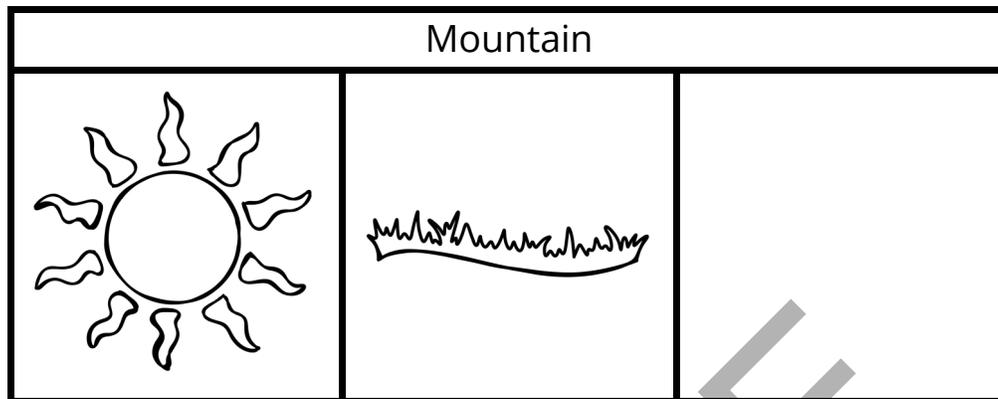
Clue: What type of plants might grow in a marsh?

Ocean		
		
		

Clue: What small animals eat the phytoplankton and then are eaten by small fish?

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What Part of the Food Chain is Missing? (continued)



Clue: What mountain animal eats plants, then becomes prey for the fox?

Choose from these boxes to fill in the spaces in the food chains.

