How to Use

This Ecosystems Compare and Contrast Notebook is designed to help students research and discover some of the ecosystems found around the world. To get started, students need to find two locations in the world where the ecosystem they are working on, such as a mangrove swamp, tropical rain forest, etc., can be found. Once they've chosen their locations, they can fill out the first page that includes research questions and room to record things such as the types of plants and animals found in these ecosystems in each of the two locations they chose, the average precipitation and temperature in each, and other interesting facts.

The second assignment is to complete one or two Venn diagrams that illustrate some of the similarities and differences between the ecosystems in the two locations such as what animals are present in each and what animals are unique to each. They can fill out the diagram with as much of the information learned as desired.

The third assignment is to draw a picture of the ecosystem from one of the two locations and note which animals and plants they included.

The final assignment is for students to create four flashcards that can help them remember key information about plants or animals. Students can complete the compare and contrast assignments for as many ecosystems as desired. A list of possible locations for the thirteen ecosystems is included.

Ecosystem Guide

There are many places in the world that students may find some of these ecosystems. The following list is not exhaustive. It's simply a list you can use to help students get started if desired. Similarly, some regions go by multiple names, so not all resources will refer to the same location with exactly the same terms. For grassland and desert, you will find two sets of worksheets so that students can explore more locations.

Bamboo forest: Asia (including China and South Korea); Africa (including Ethiopia and Kenya)
Chaparral: California; Mediterranean
Coral reef: Caribbean; Australia (Pacific Ocean)
Desert: Mojave, Atacama, Sahara, Arabian, Australian
Grassland: African savanna; North American temperate grassland; llanos and pampas (South America); Australian bush
Grassland (Steppe): Central America (steppe); Mongolian steppe
Mangrove swamp: Florida (United States); Indochina
Mountains: North America (Rocky Mountains); Asia (Himalaya); South America (Andes)
Taiga: North American; Scandinavian/Russian
Temperate deciduous forest: North America (various); Europe (various); East Asia (various)
Temperate rain forest: North America (Pacific and Appalachian); South Africa; Tasmania; Japan
Tropical dry forest: Madagascar; South & Central America and the Caribbean (various locations)
Tropical rain forest: South America; Southeast Asia; Africa (Congo)

Bamboo Forest

What are at least two different places in the world where you can find a bamboo forest?

_____

What kinds of animals can you find in the first one? _____

_____

What kinds of plants can you find in the first one? _____

_____

What is the average temperature in the first one? _____

What is the average precipitation in the first one? _____

What kinds of animals can you find in the second one? _____

_____

What kinds of plants can you find in the second one? _____

_____

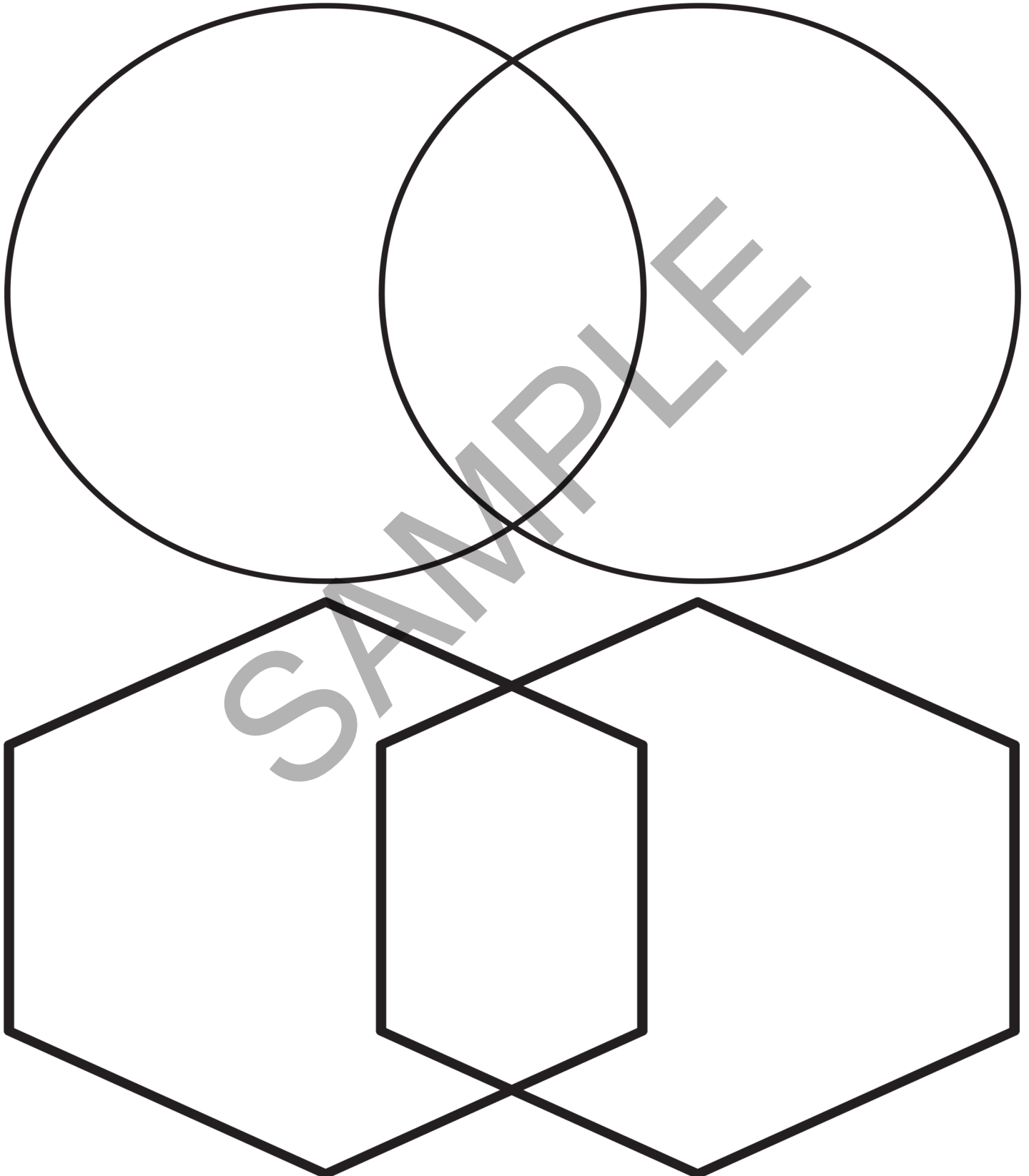What is the average temperature in the second one? _____

What is the average precipitation in the second one? _____

What other interesting facts did you learn? _____

_____

_____

Compare and contrast the types of animals and plants found in these two bamboo forests.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Bamboo Forest

What kinds of similarities did you find between the two locations? What kinds of differences? Complete the Venn diagrams to show some of what you discovered.

SAMPLE

Bamboo Forest

Draw a picture of a bamboo forest from one of these two locations.

SAMPLE

Animals and plants I included in my picture:

Bamboo Forest

Choose four of the plants or animals you discovered that live in bamboo forests. Draw or paste a picture of each in the top portions of the cards and then fill in the facts you discover in the bottom portion.

Name: _____

Average size: _____

Colors: _____

Interesting facts: _____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Average size: _____

Colors: _____

Interesting facts: _____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Average size: _____

Colors: _____

Interesting facts: _____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Average size: _____

Colors: _____

Interesting facts: _____

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