

Summary: Ecosystems

Many Kinds of Ecosystems

There are many different kinds of ecosystems in the world. Deserts, grasslands, and rain forests are kinds of ecosystems.

A desert has a very dry climate. Plants and animals that live there need very little water.

A desert is cooler at night than during the day. Some deserts have rocky soil. Other deserts have more sand. Different plants and animals live in different deserts.

People can hurt desert ecosystems. Their cars cause pollution. Their cities take land away from desert life.

Grasslands and Rain Forests

A grassland gets a little more rain than a desert. However, there are not many trees in a grassland. The Great Plains in the United States is a grassland. Parts of Africa are also grasslands.

People grow crops and raise animals on grasslands. When animals feed too much on the land, the grasslands can be hurt.

A rain forest gets much more rain than grasslands. It has many trees that grow close together. The big leaves on the trees keep sunlight from reaching the ground. Many animals live in the treetops. Many animals and plants live on the dark forest floor, too.

People clear large areas of the rain forest for farming and logging. Many plants and animals are lost. This hurts the rain forest. Some people work to protect the rain forest.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

ecosystem *noun*, all the living and nonliving things that interact with each other in one place

grassland *noun*, a dry region covered by different kinds of grasses



After You Read

REVIEW What is a desert ecosystem like? Circle two sentences that tell about the climate and the plants and animals.

REVIEW How do grassland and rain forest ecosystems differ in the amount of rainfall they get? Draw a box around the sentence that compares the amount of rain they get.