
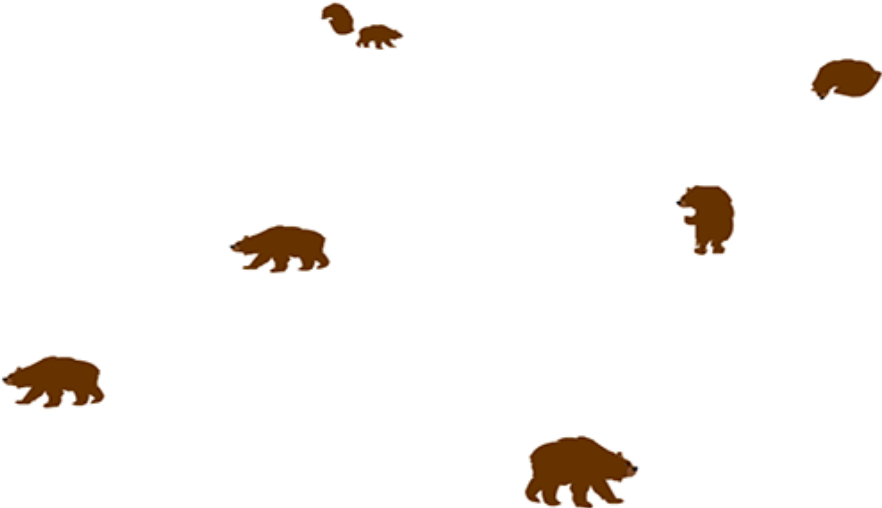
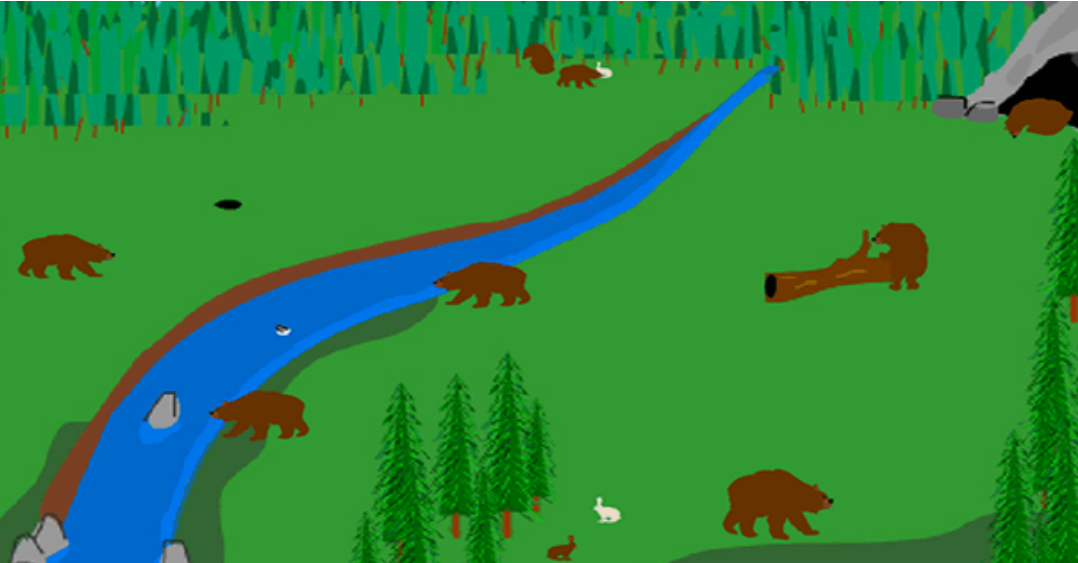


Name: _____

Unit 4.1
Science 9 – Wolfe

Introduction to ecosystems

Did you know that you are part of an ecosystem? A ecosystem is a community of living things and their environment. Let's look at a single species, or type of living thing: Examine the images below to see how the different aspects relate to a grizzly bear, its population, and its community.

<p>Each type of organism is called its species. This is a Grizzly Bear.</p>	
<p>In a given area, the group of any one species is the population.</p>	
<p>The mix of different species in a given area is called a community.</p>	

How might this look for a gold fish (carp) in an aquarium?

Species: _____

Population _____

Community _____

All the living parts of an environment are called **organisms**. Some are animals and plants that you might be familiar with. Some are **micro-organisms** are too small to be seen without a microscope. This might include bacteria or algae.

The interactions among organisms within a community are many. Organisms also interact with non-living parts of their environment. This network of interactions among living and non-living parts of an environment is called an ecosystem.

In this unit, we will discuss how all of the living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) parts of an ecosystem interact. Visit <https://switchzoo.com/games/buildabiome.htm> to build a terrestrial (on land) biome. Explore the various biomes.

Now choose a biome that you want to focus on: Tundra, taiga, deciduous forest, tropical rainforest, grass savanna, or desert.

Then fill out the chart on the next page using the information below as a guide. To get this information, try googling phrases such as “desert biome climate” or “taiga biome location.”

World location: Most biomes occur in more than one place, so unless yours is very specific, you will probably describe the location by talking about factors such as:

- Latitude: tropical, middle latitudes, polar
- Northern or southern hemisphere
- Surrounding biomes (for example, “tundra” is located mostly between “taiga” and “ice caps”)

Climate: made up of mostly temperature and precipitation. You also need to talk about seasons. This can look very different depending on whether you are talking about a land or sea biome. Example

- Taiga, or boreal forest, has long cold winters and short mild summers. The usually get moderate precipitation with a lot of it falling as snow.

Biome Name	
World Location	
Climate (temperature, precipitation, seasons)	
Other Environmental Factors (soils, sunlight, winds, vegetation, biodiversity, etc)	
3-5 plants that live there	
3-5 animals that live there	

