

Skills Worksheet

# Directed Reading A

## Section: Everything Is Connected

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is one way alligators and other organisms interact?
- a. Alligators dig holes.
  - b. Alligators escape from heat.
  - c. Alligators swim.
  - d. Fish use holes dug by alligators.

### STUDYING THE WEB OF LIFE

2. What is ecology?

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3. What is the biotic part of the environment?

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4. What is the abiotic part of the environment?

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For each word listed, write whether it is from the biotic or abiotic part of the environment.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. alligator
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. gar
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. temperature
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. water
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. plants
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. rocks

**Directed Reading A *continued***

**Put the five levels of environmental organization in order from smallest to largest. Write the appropriate number in the space provided.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. population
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. biosphere
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. individual organism
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. ecosystem
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. community

**16.** A group of seaside sparrows competing for food, nesting space, and mates in a salt marsh is an example of the \_\_\_\_\_ level of environmental organization.

**17.** List four species in the salt marsh community.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**18.** List three ways that species in the salt marsh community use cordgrass.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**19.** An ecosystem is made up of a community of organisms and the \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the environment, such as temperature, soil, and water.

**20.** The ocean, the air, and all areas of Earth where life is are all parts of the \_\_\_\_\_ level of organization.

# Directed Reading A

## Section: Living Things Need Energy

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. To survive, living things need
- a. grasslands.
  - b. energy.
  - c. clothing.
  - d. species.

### THE ENERGY CONNECTION

2. What three groups can animals be divided into based on how they get energy?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Organisms that use sunlight directly to make food are called

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Producers use a process called \_\_\_\_\_ to make food.

5. Herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores that eat other organisms are known as

\_\_\_\_\_.

6. A consumer that eats only plants is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

7. A consumer that eats only animals is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

8. A consumer that eats both plants and animals is

a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

9. An example of a herbivore is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

10. An example of an omnivore is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Omnivores that eat dead plants and animals are called

\_\_\_\_\_.

12. Organisms that break down dead organisms to get energy are called

\_\_\_\_\_.

13. List two decomposers.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Directed Reading A *continued***

14. A simple diagram that shows how energy in food flows from one organism to another is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

15. A food chain does not show energy connections in nature as accurately as a food \_\_\_\_\_ does.

16. In food webs and food chains, does the arrow point toward the plant or animal doing the eating or the one that is eaten?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. List the two main food webs on Earth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. Why isn't all of the energy that grass gets from sunlight passed on to the prairie dogs that eat the grass?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. The diagram that shows an ecosystem's loss of energy at each level of the food chain is known as \_\_\_\_\_.

**WOLVES AND THE ENERGY PYRAMID**

20. When gray wolves were wiped out as the wilderness was settled, what happened to the grass and elk in some areas?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Directed Reading A *continued***

**21.** What effect does the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service think the return of wolves will have in Yellowstone National Park?

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**22.** Why are ranchers near Yellowstone worried about wolves returning?

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**23.** How have three populations of organisms changed since the reestablishment of wolves in Yellowstone National Park?

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