

How Can Humans Change Ecosystems?

Main Idea Human activities impact ecosystems in both positive and negative ways.

Fill in the blanks with words from the box below.

endangered species threatened species pollution

1. When a species is close to becoming extinct, it is called a(n) _____. (page B59)
2. When a species is close to becoming endangered, it is called a(n) _____. (page B59)
3. _____ is the addition of harmful substances to the environment. (page B60)

Write *true* if the statement is true and *false* if the statement is false.

- _____ 4. The loss of rain forests has no effect on plants and animals. (page B58)
- _____ 5. Rain forest plants release oxygen and take in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. (page B58)
- _____ 6. Loss of habitat is the main reason rates of extinction are on the rise. (page B59)
- _____ 7. Wetlands help filter harmful chemicals from groundwater. (page B59)
- _____ 8. When fossil fuels are burned, the gases that are released make the air healthier and easier to breathe. (page B60)
- _____ 9. Each year, people in the United States produce millions of tons of solid waste. (page B60)

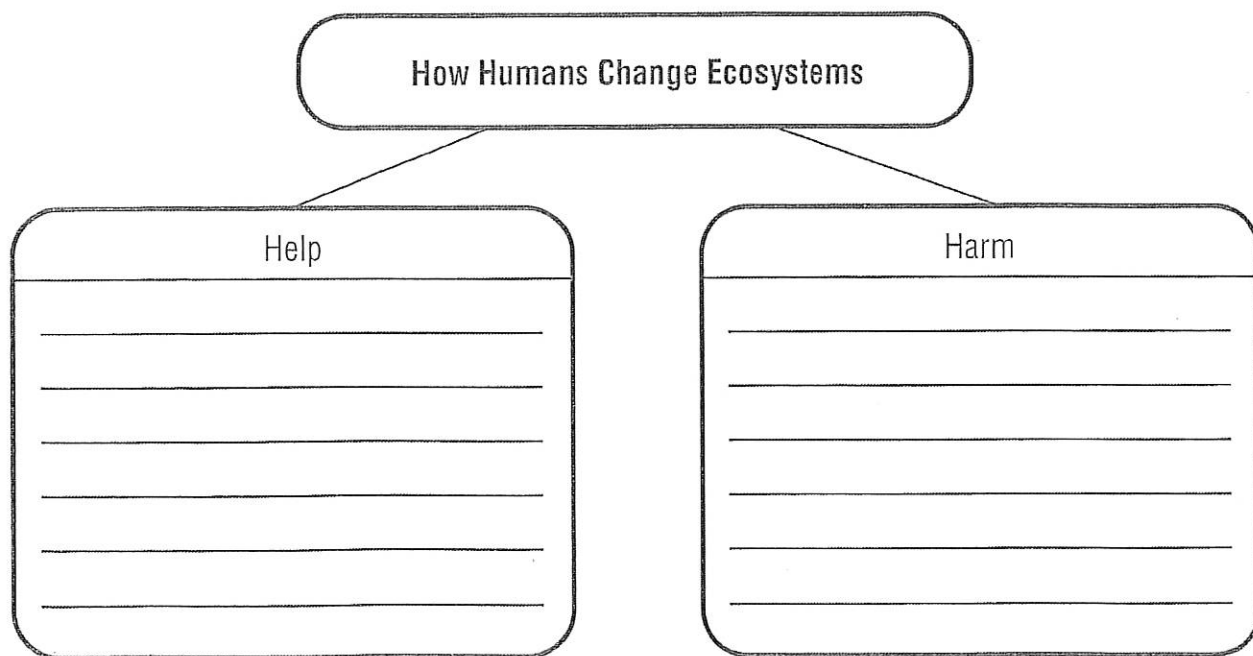


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- _____ 10. Today's human population is about the same as it was in 1800. (page B61)
- _____ 11. If the human population continues to grow, not enough resources will be available. (page B61)
- _____ 12. Human activities can harm ecosystems. (page B61)

Underline the term in the parentheses that correctly completes each statement.

13. The (Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act) limits the pollutants from new cars. (page B62)
14. Development and hunting are (limited, unlimited) in wildlife refuges. (page B62)



15. On the chart above, write at least three ways human activities help and harm ecosystems. (pages B58–B63)

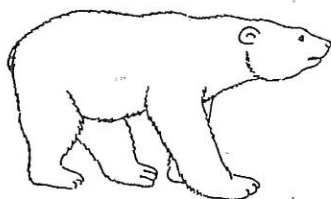
What Are Habitats and Niches?

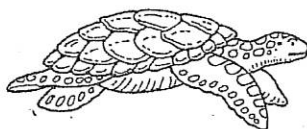
Main Idea Each kind of organism occupies a particular niche in its habitat.

Write answers to the questions on the lines below.

1. What is a habitat?

2. What is a niche?







3. Write at least one adaptation for each animal shown above.

4. What is symbiosis?

5. What is parasitism?

What Factors Affect Ecosystems?

Main Idea The size of any population can vary over time. It responds to changes in climate and resources.

Fill in the blanks.

1. All the organisms of a given species that live together in the same area are called a(n) _____.
2. In a healthy ecosystem, the population densities of _____ are balanced.
3. _____ species are plants, animals, or other organisms that are not native to a given ecosystem.
4. Nonliving things, such as volcanoes, can change the _____ of an ecosystem.
5. In nature, living things respond to dramatic _____ in their environment.
6. _____ is the consequence when living things can neither adapt nor relocate to survive a change.
7. _____ show how species have changed over time.
8. When an entire species perishes, the species becomes _____.
9. Scientists are able to estimate the age of a fossil through a process called _____.
10. Scientists conclude that something happened to kill all the dinosaurs at once, an event that is called a(n) _____.