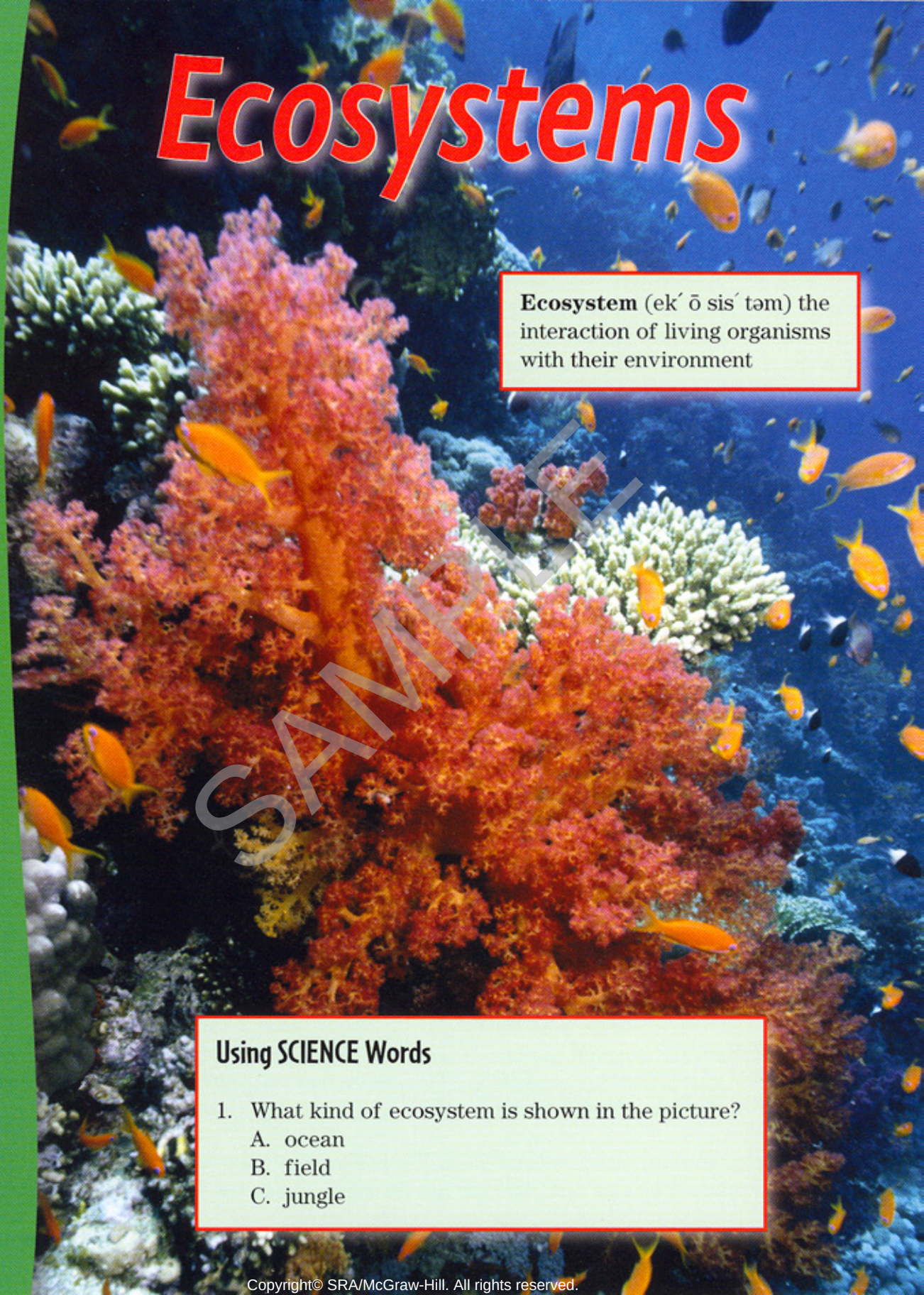
Ecosystems



Ecosystem (ek´ ō sis´ təm) the interaction of living organisms with their environment

Using SCIENCE Words

1. What kind of ecosystem is shown in the picture?
   A. ocean
   B. field
   C. jungle

1 Living organisms live and grow in their habitats. They use nonliving things that are there. They use other living organisms too.

2 A bear sleeps in a cave. It eats berries and small animals. The bear is using nonliving and living things.

3 An **ecosystem** is the interaction of living organisms with their environment. An ecosystem is made of groups of living organisms and their habitats. A garden is an ecosystem.

4 Birds and insects live in a garden. Worms and frogs live there. Plants live there. They are all part of the same ecosystem.

5 Many of the living organisms in an ecosystem affect one another in some way. Some of them use the same things. Some of them use one another.

2. Which is **not** an ecosystem?
   a. a stone
   b. a garden
   c. a pond

6 There are many living organisms in a garden. They are all part of the same community. A **community** is all the living organisms that live and interact within an area. Some living organisms affect other living organisms within a community.

3. Which of these statements is true?
   a. A community is made of living organisms.
   b. A community is made of nonliving things.
   c. A community is made of living and nonliving things.

7 A group of the same kind of living organisms within the same area is a **population.** A community has different populations. Each kind of insect in the garden is a population. Each kind of bird is a population. Each kind of plant is a population.

4. Which of these things is a population?
   a. a kind of soil
   b. a kind of metal
   c. a kind of frog

8 Many populations share an ecosystem. They often have the same needs. Two populations of animals may use the same plants for food.

5. Which of these two populations might share an ecosystem?
   a. whales and rabbits
   b. deer and rabbits
   c. deer and dolphins

9 The populations of insects in a garden may be large. Then there may not be enough plants to feed all of them. If there are not enough plants for long periods of time, some of the insects will die. Their populations will get smaller. If new plants begin to grow over time, the insect populations will then get bigger.

10 A population will get bigger when its needs are met. A population will get smaller when there are not enough resources to meet its needs.

6. Which sentence best states the main idea of the paragraphs above?
   a. All populations are big.
   b. All populations are small.
   c. A population's size depends on how well its needs are met.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

The small boat/swayed in the wind.
(**S**ubject) (**P**redicate)
The fence/is made of wood.
(**S**ubject) (**P**redicate)
Diane and Maria/walked to the park.
(**S**ubject) (**P**redicate)

Each of the sentences above has a subject and a predicate. Read the following sentences, and notice the words in **bold type.** If those words are the subject of the sentence, write *S*. If they are the predicate, write *P*.

7. The bear **sleeps in a cave.**
8. **Plants and animals** have needs.
9. **The flower** is very pretty.
10. **Squirrels and mice** are mammals.
11. Plants **grow fast.**
12. **The trees** have fruit.
13. The soil **is dry.**
14. The frog **jumped into the pond.**
15. Insects **are often small.**
16. **Deer** eat plants.

THINK ABOUT IT

Answer the question.

17. A small group of deer comes to eat and live in a meadow. The deer are very hungry, and they eat many of the meadow plants. What do you think will happen to the plant populations in this meadow?
    A. They will get bigger.
    B. They will get smaller.
    C. They will stay the same.
    D. They will disappear.

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Using SCIENCE Words

1. A

Comprehension

2. a
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. c

Learn About Words

7. P
8. S
9. S
10. S
11. P
12. S
13. P
14. P
15. P
16. S

Think About It

17. B

Writing About Science

Think about an ecosystem near your home or school. What kinds of plants and animals might live in that ecosystem? Draw a picture of the ecosystem, and label three plants and three animals.