

Student Name: _____

1. Understanding the environment around us will help us to better protect it for future generations. It is our responsibility to protect the extraordinary natural resources that Canada has. Let's explore the environment a little more and gain a better understanding of our surroundings...

2. Click on the StudentLink **Grade 9** icon, then on **Environment...**

3. First, let's explore different *biomes*. Let's get started by clicking on **Kids do Ecology**, and then **World Biomes**. Explore the four biomes pages to learn more about them. Once you're done, answer the following questions to recap:

1) Define the term biome. Can biomes change over time?

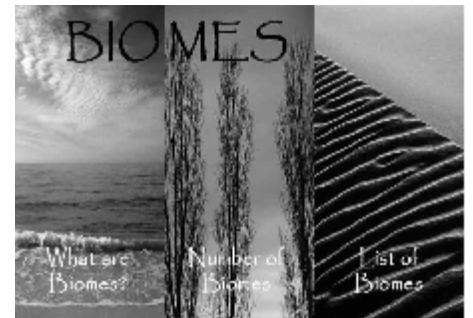
2) How many major types of biomes are there? List them.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____

3) Three of these biomes can be further divided. Explain how so in the space below.



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4. Next, click on the **List of Biomes**. Here you can read about all of the different sub types of biomes, what type of environment they are, and what kinds of organisms live there. Once you've read through the list, answer the following questions:

5. *Freshwater Biome*
1) List the different types of freshwater ecosystems.



Where does the freshwater for lakes and streams originate?

2) List three different types of vegetation and animals that you might find in a freshwater biome. For each, list an adaptation that is specific to that organism and explain how the adaptation helps the organism to survive in a fresh water biome.

PLANTS		ADAPTATIONS
1.		
2.		
3.		
ANIMALS		ADAPTATIONS
1.		
2.		
3.		

3) Why is it important to protect freshwater biomes? List some of the things you can do to protect the freshwater biomes in your community.

6. *Tundra Biome*
1) List three distinguishing characteristics of the tundra. What does the word "tundra" mean?



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Go back one page and click on *Tundra*. What plant life is there in the tundra? What adaptations have they made to help them to survive the harsh environment?


What is the major threat to the survival of the tundra biome?



7. Go back one page and click on *Temperate Grassland*

1) Where are you most likely to find this biome? Name some of the distinguishing characteristics of it.

2) We often take for granted the huge amount of farmland we have in Canada. But farmland is hurtful to the grasslands biome. What impacts does farming have on this biome? How would irrigation and other agricultural developments impact the native animals to this biome?

8. Now that you've had the chance to familiarize yourself with the different types of biomes, it's your turn to try and create one. Go back to the **StudentLink Grade 9 Environment** page. Under the column "Our Country" Click on **Build a Prairie**. Now you get to be the manager of a biome. Click on  and get started.

Here you can explore the different types of grasses and flowers that were once part of the vast prairies of North America. You can also manage a tall-grass prairie or short-grass prairie. Once you've tried both, compare and contrast the differences between the tall-grass and short-grass prairie. Do you think one is easier to manage than the other? Also ask yourself what we can do to help preserve this important biome.