

Contrasting Environments Glossary

KEY TERMS: canopy, agriculture, liana, ecosystem, desertification, food chain, epiphyte, herbivore, adaptation, savanna, climate, leaching, drip tip, biome, flora, buttress root, coral reef, shrub layer, deforestation, carnivore, polar, emergent, omnivore, fauna, desert

As you learn these words, write them next to their correct definition:

1 Ecosystem	A unit made up of living things and their non-living environment
2 Biome	A very large ecosystem
3 Food web	Diagram showing what species feed on
4 Herbivore	An animal that only eats plants
5 Carnivore	An animal that only eats other animals
6 Omnivore	An animal that eats both plants and animals
7 Liana	Thick vines that grow around tree trunks
8 Epiphyte	Air plants that grow without roots on branches
9 Buttress roots	Large, wide roots that support tall trees
10 Canopy	The main layer of treetops in the rainforest
11 Drip tips	Pointed tips of leaves allowing water to run off
12 Emergent	Tall trees emerging above the canopy layer
13 Shrub layer	Lowest layer or undergrowth in the rainforest
14 Deforestation	Clearing of areas of forest for other use
15 Leaching	When nutrients are washed out of the soil
16 Savanna	Hot ecosystem with wet and dry season
17 Fauna	Animal life
18 Flora	Flowers and plants
19 Desertification	The process where savannah becomes desert
20 Desert	A place that has little or no rainfall
21 Adaptation	Change in order to survive
22 Climate	Average weather conditions measured over time
23 Polar	The very north or south of the world
24 Agriculture	Another term for farming
25 Coral reef	An underwater ecosystem