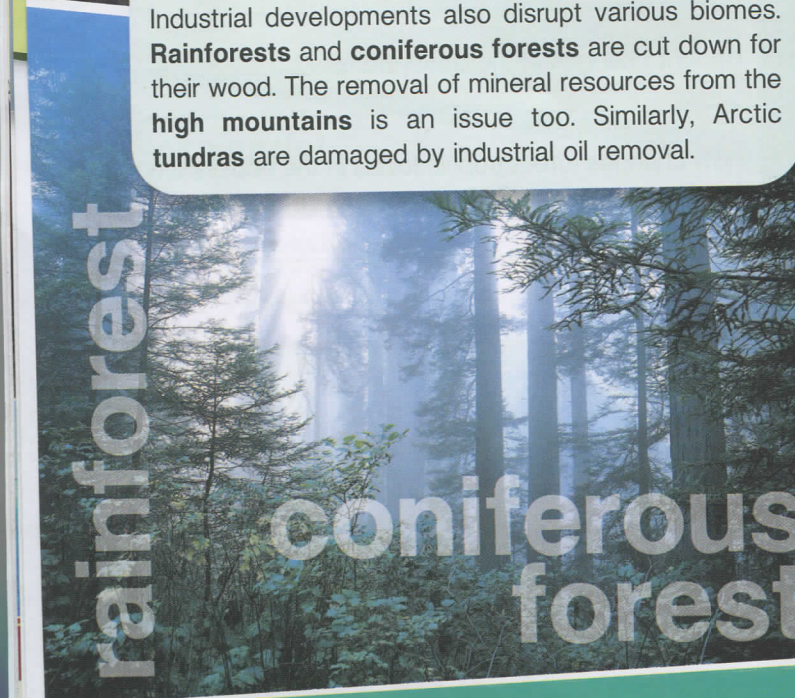grassland

desert

tundra

rainforest

coniferous forest

Summary of Environmental Study: Biomes | Author: Dr. Helen Bukowski

Nearly all of Earth's **biomes** face some kind of threat. Human activities affect ecosystems around the world. **Deserts** and **chaparral** face destruction from urban developments. Cities deplete water supplies that are already limited. Motor vehicles and heavy construction disrupt the soil.

Soil disruption also occurs in **grasslands**. Agricultural developments often cover **savannas** with crops. They also clear **deciduous forests** to make room for crop land.

Industrial developments also disrupt various biomes. **Rainforests** and **coniferous forests** are cut down for their wood. The removal of mineral resources from the **high mountains** is an issue too. Similarly, Arctic **tundras** are damaged by industrial oil removal.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What are some types of forest?
2 What is the driest biome on the planet?

Reading

2 Read the report. Then, choose the correct answers.

1 What is the main idea of the report?
   A methods for preserving biomes
   B the causes of biome destruction
   C the importance of studying biomes
   D ways to create new biomes

2 Which of the following is NOT an effect mentioned in the report?
   A soil disruption in grasslands
   B depletion of water supplies
   C forest clearing for crop land
   D rainforest damage from oil removal

3 According to the report, which biome is damaged by mineral resource removal?
   A rainforest   C grassland
   B coniferous forest   D high mountain

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

1 __ biome   4 __ grassland
2 __ savanna   5 __ high mountain
3 __ chaparral   6 __ deciduous forest

A a warm, open region with wet and dry seasons
B a temperate region with tall trees
C an open region with few trees
D a region with particular characteristics
E a region that is above others
F a dry, temperate region with small trees

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose where the words best fit the blanks.

1 tundra / desert

   A A _____ is typically covered with ice.

   B The heat in a _____ is too much for some organisms.

2 rainforests / coniferous forests

   A Tall trees in warm climates are usually part of _____ .

   B Tall trees in cold climates are usually part of _____ .

5 🎧 Listen and read the report again. What area is threatened by the oil industry?

Listening

6 🎧 Listen to a conversation between a student and an instructor. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 ___ The woman is mistaken about the characteristics of tundras.

2 ___ The woman lists similarities between tundras and rainforests.

3 ___ They discuss how precipitation affects savannas.

7 🎧 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Student:	I'm confused about savannas and tundras.
Instructor:	Sure. First of all, what do they have **1** _____ _____?
Student:	Well, I know they're both **2** _____. They have large open spaces with few trees.
Instructor:	And how are they **3** _____?
Student:	I know savannas get a lot more heat and precipitation. They're more like **4** _____ than tundras.
Instructor:	You're right about the **5** _____. But they also have long dry seasons. You see what I mean?
Student:	Oh, I get it. So they get **6** _____ _____ to support grass, but not tall trees.
Instructor:	You got it.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then switch roles.

Student A: You are a student. Talk to Student B about:
- characteristics of biomes
- similarities between biomes
- differences between biomes

Student B: You are an instructor. Talk to Student A about the characteristics of biomes.

Writing

9 Use the report and the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the student's notes.

Notes

Biome 1: _____

Biome 2: _____

Similarities between biomes: _____

_____

_____

Differenced between biomes: _____

_____

_____

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