

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions:

1. Answer each of the questions to the best of your ability. You may not have studied some of the information that is asked. Answer based on what you think is best.
2. Write as complete an answer as possible to help others really know what your thinking is. Draw a picture or model where it asks you to and include labels.
3. Define any special terms that you use.
4. Answer every question, even those you are unsure about.
5. If you need extra space, use the back of the pages.

1a. Owls, insects, skunks, mice, and toads are all found in an area near the school. Draw and explain a food web that includes them. Include at least four other things in your web to make the very best food web that you can.

1b. Are the green plants important to the other things? If so, circle the things below that the green plants are important to.

Owls
Mice
Insects
Skunks
Toads

Explain the reasons why the green plants are important to the things you circled.

1c. Are owls important to mice? Yes or No? Why or why not? Are mice important to owls? Yes or No? Why or why not?

2. What happens to a tree in the forest after it dies? What would happen to the tree after a few years?

3. Think about your answer to question #2. What causes this to happen? Tell as many causes as you can think of. (Hint: Don't tell what caused the tree to die. Tell about what causes whatever happens after it dies.)

4a. Is what happens to the tree after it dies important to the plants and animals in the forest?

Circle one: Yes No

4b. Would it matter if nothing happened to the tree after it died? Why or why not?
(Hint: Think about your answer to question #2. What if the thing that you wrote about did not happen?)

5a. What is balance in an ecosystem?

5b. How does the ecosystem get balanced or unbalanced?

5c. A student said, “It is good for ecosystems to always be in balance.” Do you agree or disagree.

I agree I disagree

5d. Explain why you agree or disagree.