

Communities and Ecosystems Reading Assessment

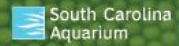
Read the Mountain Region: Stream Ecosystem card below.

Mountain Region



- Small part of the Appalachian Mountain system
- Changes in land can be drastic creating fast water
- Average temperature in July each year is about 71 degrees Fahrenheit
- Covers a small part of South Carolina (~2%)
- Receives about 80 inches of precipitation each year

Stream Ecosystem



- Contains fast-moving fresh water
- Contains water that has a lot of oxygen
- Contains clear water
- Contains cold water
- Rocky cliffs with waterfalls very common

Circle the facts that go with this Mountain stream ecosystem. Circle all that apply. Choose “None of these facts” if none belong.

1) Rock

- The rock in the ecosystem to which this card belongs forms a wide, flat area
- The rock in the ecosystem to which this card belongs was created by animals that lived long ago
- The rock in the ecosystem to which this card belongs forms steep hillsides
- None of these facts

2) Wood Frog

- Amphibian found only in the upper northwest corner of South Carolina
- Prefers wooded areas
- Eaten by snakes and birds
- Eats beetles and flies
- None of these facts

3) Brook Trout

- Lives in freshwater
- Lives in streams, creeks, ponds or lakes
- Prey on insects and their larvae, frogs, small fish and crayfish
- Prefer clear, cold water
- None of these facts

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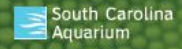
Read the Coastal Plain Region: Blackwater Swamp Ecosystem card below.

Coastal Plain Region



- Largest land region in South Carolina with two sections (outer and inner coastal plain)
- Average temperature in July is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit
- Very flat
- Often contains swamp areas with slow-moving or standing freshwater
- Average precipitation each year is about 46 inches

Blackwater Swamp Ecosystem



- A habitat where water floods a forest
- Only found in flat areas
- Contains slow-moving or standing freshwater
- The water often does not contain a lot of oxygen
- The water is stained black by chemicals (tannins) leached from leaves

Circle the facts that go with this Coastal plain swamp ecosystem. Circle all that apply. Choose “None of these facts” if none belong.

1) Brown Water Snake

- a. Lives in freshwater
- b. Eaten by hawks
- c. Preys on fish, toads and salamanders
- d. Prefers still or slow-moving water
- e. None of these facts

2) Sun

- a. Average temperature in the ecosystem to which this sun card belongs in July is about 71 degrees Fahrenheit
- b. Average temperature in the ecosystem to which this sun card belongs in July is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit
- c. The sun provides energy for phytoplankton to photosynthesis
- d. None of these facts

3) Canadian Hemlock Tree


- a. Can produce its own food through photosynthesis
- b. Prefers to grow near rushing streams and waterfalls
- c. Seeds are eaten by birds
- d. Seeds are eaten by rodents
- e. None of these facts

Communities and Ecosystems

Reading Assessment


Read the Ocean Region: Rocky Reef Ecosystem card below.

Ocean Region



- Huge water region located off the coast of South Carolina
- Contains saltwater
- Contains ecosystems located near the coast
- Contains ecosystems located far away from the coast

Rocky Reef Ecosystem



- This habitat is found in areas of salt water
- Often made of limestone; the ancient remains of animals, like corals and worms, that lived long ago
- Provides a place for animals like corals, sponges and barnacles to attach
- Animals attached to rocky reefs are often eaten by larger animals

1) Loggerhead Sea Turtle

- a. Can be found living near or far from the coast
- b. Adults eat seaweed
- c. Juveniles eat things like snails
- d. Lives in saltwater
- e. None of these facts

2) Bluespotted Sunfish

- a. Lives in fresh slow-moving water
- b. Prefers to live in a South Carolina region that receives about 46 inches of rain per year
- c. Feeds on insect larvae
- d. Covered with shiny blue, green, silver or gold spots
- e. None of these facts

3) Water

- a. The water in the ecosystem to which this card belongs is salty and abundant
- b. The water in the ecosystem to which this card belongs is fresh and often slow-moving or standing
- c. The water in the ecosystem to which this card belongs is fresh cold and fast-moving
- d. None of these facts