Name _____ Class_____ Date_____

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading

Section: Ecology

1. Define ecology.

_____

_____

_____

2. What word also means “non-living?”

_____

_____

_____

ECOSYSTEMS

In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches the term or phrase.

_____ 3. ecosystem

_____ 4. producers

_____ 5. consumers

_____ 6. decomposers

a. organisms that get their energy from eating other organisms
b. a community of organisms and their abiotic environment
c. organisms that make their own food; a source of food for other organisms
d. organisms that get energy by breaking down dead organisms

BALANCING FORCES IN ECOSYSTEMS

7. What else becomes limited because amounts of matter and energy in an ecosystem are limited?

_____

8. The largest population that an environment can support at any given time is called the _____.

9. In general, ecosystems react to changes in ways that maintain or restore _____in the ecosystem.

10. When might an ecosystem be unable to restore a community of organisms to its original state?

_____

_____

11. The ultimate source of energy for almost every ecosystem is the _____

12. Plants capture solar energy by a chemical process called _____.

13. Chemical changes that take place as energy and matter are cycled through an ecosystem result in what?

_____

_____

14. On the energy pyramid, where is the least amount of energy available to organisms found?

_____

_____

15. The sequence in which organisms consume other organisms can be represented by a(n) _____.

16. A diagram that shows the complex feeding relationships among organisms in an ecosystem is a(n) _____.

HUMAN STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT

17. What effect might changes in an ecosystem have on a human population?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

18. Identify three ways in which human activity can disrupt ecological balances.

_____

_____

_____

19. Define pollution.

_____

_____

_____

20. How can people help keep Earth's ecosystems in balance?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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