

Progress Monitoring Probe 8

Temperate Forests

Temperate forests are forests found in temperate, or moderately warm, regions of the earth. These forests grow in places where the climate changes substantially between summer and winter. At one time, thick, dense, temperate forests were common in the northern parts of our planet. However, as the world's population increased, people used the natural resources of the forests and some forests were damaged by air pollution.	8
As a result, the temperate forests of today are smaller than they once were.	18
Temperate forests are ecosystems that support different varieties of plants, trees, and wildlife. Visitors to a temperate forest in North America, for example, might see maple, oak, and elm trees and discover bears, rabbits, and deer.	26
Each season in a temperate forest brings fascinating changes. During the winter, many trees are dormant and have no leaves at all. Although these trees appear to be dead, they are actually adapting to the change in climate. They shed their leaves to conserve energy during the long, harsh winter. The leaves drift to the forest floor where, with time, they decay and become part of the soil.	36
In early spring, sunlight shines through the trees' bare branches and reaches the forest floor. Tiny buds appear on trees, and green shoots push through the soil. Soon, the ground is covered with a beautiful carpet of grass and flowers. This beautiful display comes to an end during the summer. At that time, the trees are full of leaves, and very little sunlight reaches the forest floor.	47
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	125
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	193
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Temperate Forests (Continued)

Although people enjoy temperate forests in all seasons, many would agree that fall is the most beautiful season of all. As the leaves on the trees begin to die, they change to vivid colors of red, yellow, orange, and gold. Tourists travel great distances just to see this spectacular sight.

Temperate forests are places of beauty and wonder. It is important for people to enjoy them and also help to protect them.

Total words: _____ – errors: _____ = words correct: _____

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