34 Forests

Most plants take good things from the soil and use them to grow. If the soil is rich, then plants will grow big and strong. If the soil is not rich, then plants will have a hard time growing. Deserts and places with lots of rocks usually do not have rich soil, so big plants do not grow well there.

Of course plants need water and light, too. Some plants need lots of both, but others need less water or less light. With good soil, water, and light, plants will grow big and strong. Not only will a plant grow well in the right place, but the plant will also make lots of other plants. In this way, forests of different kinds of trees have developed in different places around the world.



Many different kinds of plants may exist in a forest or jungle. But in some places one kind of tree or a few kinds of trees dominate a forest. For example, there are some forests in cold places with very tall trees. All of these tall trees come from the same family of trees. There are many forests like this in Canada. On the other hand, there are also forests dominated by short trees, like the Black Forest in Germany. The trees that dominate the Black Forest are from a different family of trees than the tall Canadian trees.

There are also forests in hot places with heavy amounts of rain. These are called rainforests. There are rainforests in Africa, Asia, and South America. The biggest rainforest is the Amazon, which is in Brazil, a country in South America. It has more kinds of plants than any other place on the Earth! Rainforests are a wonderful home for animals, too. There is no other place on Earth that has more kinds of animals than the Amazon.



Time _____

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Circle the right answer.

1. The reading is about:
   a. places that plants live
   b. things plants need to grow
   c. parts of a tree

2. Which of the following does the writer NOT mention about plants?
   a. They grow well in good soil.
   b. They take water in from the ground.
   c. Plants in the Amazon need more light.

3. Which statement is true?
   a. It is too cold in Canada for trees to grow well.
   b. The Black Forest is in Germany.
   c. A forest is a place dominated by tall trees.

4. The writer does NOT mention that there are rainforests in:
   a. Africa
   b. Europe
   c. Brazil

5. The writer says that:
   a. Brazil has the most kinds of animals in any one place.
   b. North America has the most kinds of animals in any one place.
   c. Germany has the most kinds of animals in any one place.

Score _____

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