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WORKSHEET 12

School: Ba Sangam College

Name: _____

Subject: Geography

GEO 1 Physical Geography
GEO 13.1.5 Vegetation
Explore the factors that produce and control each biome

Year: 13

Strand
Sub strand
Content Learning Outcome

CHAPTER 5 : VEGETATION

Chapter Focus In this section, you will explore the:

- types of natural vegetation
- factors influencing their growth and distribution
- impacts of climate change on vegetation

Biome: a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra.

FORESTS

- Forests refer to large areas of land that consist mainly of trees and a variety of other plants.

Benefits of forests

- Natural Resources – make things like furniture and houses.
- Medicinal Value – tropical rainforest have medicinal properties
- Recreation – nature lovers can relax, used as a tourist attraction
- Natural Habitats – loss of natural vegetation will result in the loss of food and habitat for animals
- Prevents erosion of soil

Factors that produce and control each biome

Climatic

- Precipitation - also affect vegetation because all plants require water to grow. Areas receiving little summer rainfall, trees and shrub growing there have to be xerophytic (drought resistant) in order to survive. Places where rainfall is limited throughout the year have either a desert biome, where ephemerals(plants with very short life-cycles) dominate the vegetation, or a tundra biome, where precipitation falling as snow.

- Temperature - affects vegetation because if it is too cold (less than 6degrees C), few plants can grow. On the other hand, warm temperatures (above 20degreesC) allow abundant plant growth. In areas with moderate precipitation of between 200mm and 1000mm, grasslands are more common. In areas with less than 200mm of rain, deserts are found.

- Light intensity – affects the process of photosynthesis. Tropical ecosystems receiving most incoming radiations have higher energy inputs than do ecosystems nearer to the poles. Where the amount of light decreases as on the floor of the tropical rainforests, or with increasing depth in the ocean, plant life decreases. Quality of light affects plant growth eg.the increase in ultra violet light on mountains reduces the number of species found there.

- Wind – increase the rate of evapotraspiration and the wind chill factor. Trees are liable to bend if exposed to strong prevailing winds.
 - ❖ Natural vegetation is influenced mainly by climate.
 - ❖ A climate -vegetation relationship exists because rainfall and temperature determine the type of vegetation found in a place.
 - ❖ - High rainfall – forests - Moderate rainfall – grassland - Low rainfall – desert vegetation

Activity

1. Explain what do you understand by ‘ biome’.

 -----(2 marks)

2. State the three benefits of forests?

 -----(3 marks)

3. What are the factors affecting each biome ?

