

Habitats & Food Webs

Diorama Search at the Yale Peabody Museum

North American Dioramas

1) How does the availability of food affect the rings on the horns of bighorn sheep?

2) What does the little pika rely on for food during the winter when its habitat is covered in deep snow?

3) In winter, what do muskoxen find to eat in the high arctic tundra?

4) Where do cowbirds – find ticks and swarming flies in the shortgrass plains?

5) Many people are surprised to learn that Alaskan brown bears are omnivores. Name three plant-based foods they eat: _____, _____ & _____

6) Which large predator once kept the mule deer population in check in places such as the Kaibab Plateau? _____

7) The tropical rain forest is a habitat with many layers. The uppermost layer, made up of the crowns of the tallest trees, is called the _____. Smaller trees and shrubs make up another layer called the _____.

8) What do the bats featured in the Tropical Rain Forest Diorama eat? _____

9) Although their bills are similar in shape, how is the diet of the limpkin different than the woodstork in the Tropical Savannah Diorama? _____

10) Where do the Gila woodpecker and elf owl find a cool place to rest in the hot, dry habitat of the Sonoran Desert? _____

11) Water is a scarce resource in a desert habitat. How does the collared peccary find enough water to survive? _____

12) Name something in the Sonoran Desert that roadrunners eat? _____

Connecticut Dioramas

13) How does beach grass protect the shoreline habitat? _____

14) The salt marsh is an important feeding ground for which migrating birds?

15) The meadow vole in the Salt Marsh Diorama gets its energy by eating grasses and other plants. Where do plants get their energy from? _____

16) Is the box turtle described as an herbivore, an omnivore or a carnivore? _____

17) Which birds are finding shelter in the cattail marsh in the Coastal Region Diorama?

18) In the Forest Margin Diorama, which two herbivores browse on plant material including shrubs, twigs and leaves? _____ and _____

19) What does the brown creeper hunt for in the cracks and crevices of the sugar maple tree's bark?

20) The diets of red squirrels and gray squirrels are not exactly alike, but both rely on an abundant seed produced by oak trees. What is this seed called? _____

21) Owls play an important role keeping the population of small mammals in check. Which two small mammals in the Forest Margin Diorama could be food for the screech owl?
_____ and _____

22) Holes in trees, called tree cavities, are an important habitat component because they can provide shelter for animals such as these two species in the Forest Margin Diorama:
_____ and _____

23) Mink are carnivores that can be found in the forest along rivers and streams. What is the mink in the Forest Margin Diorama about to eat? _____

24) In the Cold Bog Diorama, how are insects such as the flesh fly used by the pitcher plant?

25) Garter snakes can be found in cold bog habitats in Connecticut. Which other animal in the diorama can be food for the garter snake? _____

Answers to Habitat & Food Web Diorama Search

- 1) Rings are widely spaced in years when food is abundant, and closely spaced when food is scarce
- 2) Dried hay stored in deep rock crannies or crevices
- 3) Crowberry and willow
- 4) On the bison
- 5) Berries, roots and grasses
- 6) Puma (also known as a cougar, mountain lion or catamount)
- 7) Canopy, understory
- 8) Fruit such as figs, mangoes, bananas & the pulpy layer surrounding palm seeds
- 9) Limpkin eats mollusks and snails (invertebrates), woodstork eats small fish (vertebrates)
- 10) In cavities in a saguaro (cactus)
- 11) It eats cacti.
- 12) Spiny lizard
- 13) Its roots hold the sand in place.
- 14) Ducks and shorebirds
- 15) The sun (solar energy)
- 16) Omnivore
- 17) Long-billed marsh wren, American bittern, swamp sparrow, king rail, red-winged blackbird
- 18) Porcupine & white-tailed deer
- 19) Insects and insect eggs
- 20) Acorns
- 21) Woodland jumping mouse & hairy-tailed mole
- 22) Owls & raccoons
- 23) Brook trout
- 24) Insects like the flesh fly are eaten by the pitcher plant.
- 25) Leopard frog