

Climate Plant Clues

Read how climate helps shape the plants of North America and the Caribbean.

SS.3.G.3.1 "Describe the climate and vegetation in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each climate description and circle each word or phrase that names plants or vegetation. This will help you notice how climate and vegetation are connected.

Weather Shapes Plant Life

- ① Climate is the usual weather in a place over many years. It helps shape vegetation, or the plants that grow there. The United States has many climates. Alaska is very cold and has tundra plants, such as mosses and low shrubs. Much of the Southeast is warm and wet, where pine forests, grasses, and broadleaf trees can grow.
- ② Canada is mostly cooler than the United States because much of it is farther north. In the far north, the land has tundra with mosses, lichens, and small shrubs. South of the tundra, large conifer forests grow. Mexico has hot, dry deserts with cacti in some northern areas. Other parts are warm and wet, supporting tropical forests with tall trees.
- ③ The Caribbean includes many islands with warm temperatures all year. Rain falls often on many islands, so tropical forests, palms, and other green plants grow well. Some places have a dry season. There, grasses and thorny shrubs may grow. Climate and vegetation are connected: cold places often have short plants, while warm, rainy places can support thick forests.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What climate and vegetation are described for Alaska?

2 What vegetation grows south of Canada's tundra?

3 Describe one climate and vegetation pair from Mexico.

4 Why do tropical forests and palms grow well on many Caribbean islands?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose two places named in the passage. Write three sentences that compare their climate and vegetation. Tell one way the places are alike or different.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each climate description and circle each word or phrase that names plants or vegetation. This will help you notice how climate and vegetation are connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What climate and vegetation are described for Alaska?	Alaska is very cold. It has tundra plants, including mosses and low shrubs.
2	What vegetation grows south of Canada's tundra?	Large conifer forests grow south of Canada's tundra.
3	Describe one climate and vegetation pair from Mexico.	Mexico has hot, dry deserts with cacti in some northern areas. Other parts are warm and wet with tropical forests and tall trees.
4	Why do tropical forests and palms grow well on many Caribbean islands?	Many Caribbean islands are warm all year and get rain often.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Canada's far north is cooler and has tundra plants, such as mosses and lichens. The Caribbean is warm all year and has tropical forests and palms. These places are different because Canada has short tundra plants, while the Caribbean can have thick forests.

Accept accurate climate and vegetation details from the passage. For the open response, accept any two named places when the student gives three sentences, describes both climates and vegetation, and makes an accurate comparison.