



Student Worksheet (Answers)

Grades 3-5

Name: _____

***A selection of questions within the worksheet have been designed to support South Dakota Science Standards, updated as of 2026.*

The answers can be found by exploring the dome, and using your brain!

SAFARI ROOM (located in the center of the Skydome)

1. Name one type of habitat in the Safari Room:

Answer: Desert, jungle/ rainforest, stream, pond.

2. How many different species of lizards can you find in this room?

Answers may vary.

3. Look at the beaks on the parrots. What do you think they eat?

Answer: Nuts and plants (fruit, leaves, etc.)

4. (Find the Murray River Turtle) Where are all species of side-neck turtles found?

Answer: Southern Hemisphere

5. **(Standard: 3-LS3-2)** Compared to plants found in the jungle, why might desert plants have little to no leaves?

Answer: C

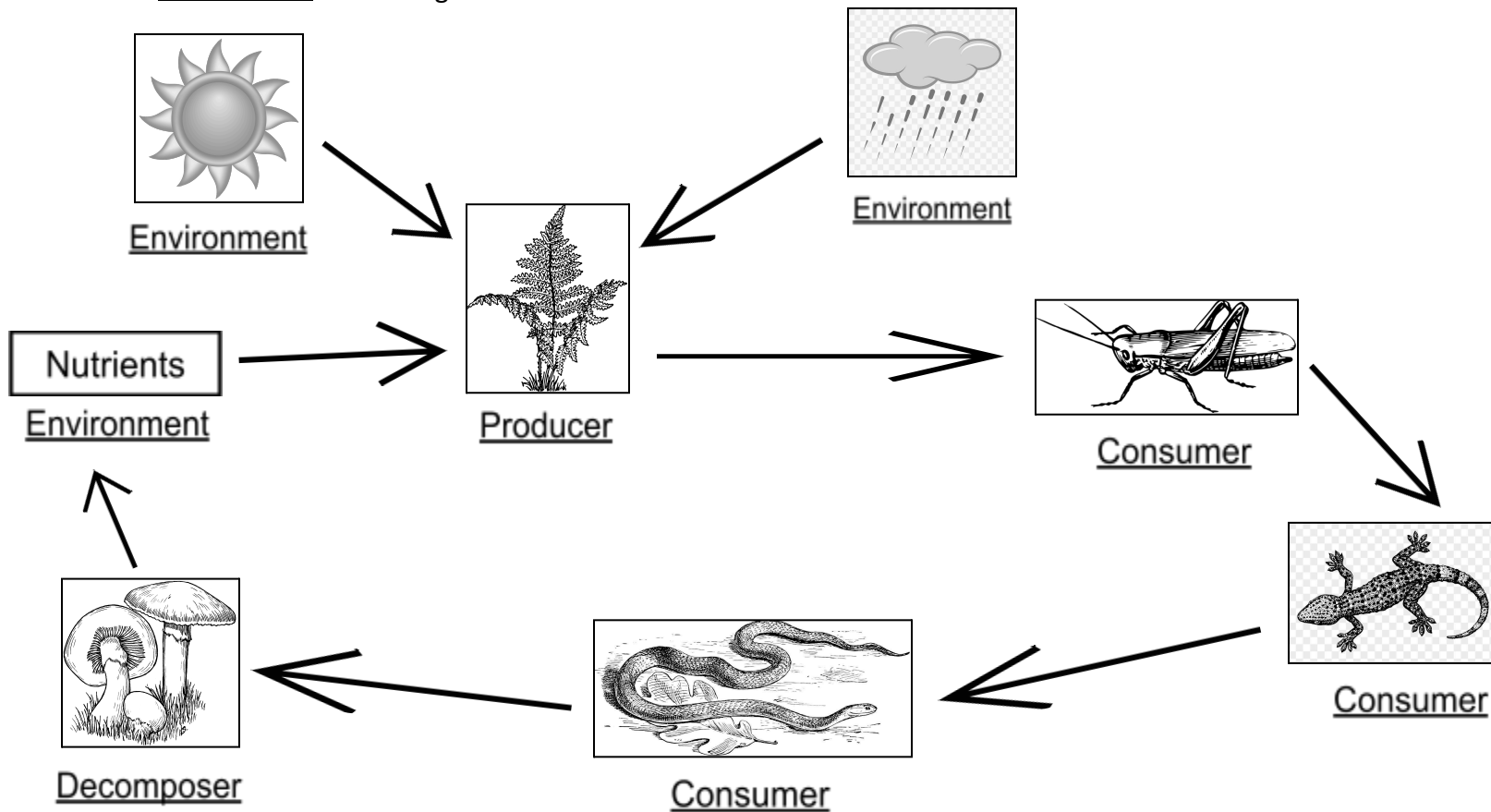
6. **(Standards: 5-LS2-1)** This model demonstrates a possible movement of matter within the environment of the Safari Room. Identify which images represent the environment, consumers, producers and decomposers. (Note: There can be more than one of each).

Producer: Creates its own energy.

Consumer: Gets its energy by eating plants and animals.

Decomposer: Breaks down dead organic material.

Environment: Non-living factors.



MEZZANINE (upstairs level of the Skydome)

1. What was the weight of the largest turtle that ever existed?

Answer: 4,500 pounds.

2. **(Standard: 3-LS4-1)** Similar to the modern day Gharial, what was the purpose of the ancient Gavial's narrow snout?

Answer: To catch fish.

3. How long can the fangs of a Gaboon Viper get? (Hint: answer found in the skeleton case past the sea turtle skeleton)

Answer: 2 inches long.

4. What is the maximum length of a Black Mamba?

Answer: 11 feet.

5. True or False: The Mexican West Coast Rattlesnake has the largest rattle segment of all rattlesnakes.

Answer: True

6. List two nicknames that are given to the Shingleback Skink.

Answer: Pinecone, bobtail, stump-tailed, and two-headed skinks.

8. **(Standard: 4-LS1-1)** What advantage does the bark on a tree or the scales on a snake provide to the organism?

Answer: Protection

LOWER RING (downstairs level of the Skydome)

1. How long is our Anaconda at Reptile Gardens?

Answer: 16 feet, 9 inches

2. Find the two species of Boa in the Lower Ring? What are they?

Answer: Rosy Boa and the Rubber Boa.

3. Maniac, the Australian Saltwater Crocodile, is currently estimated to weigh 1350 lbs. Our young American Alligator, named "Fluffy," weighs about 2 lbs.
- How many Fluffies would it take to weigh the same amount as Maniac?

Answer: 675

- Which would you rather have chasing you, the army of Fluffies or one Maniac? Why?

Answer: Fun question. Whatever the student decides.

4. Where in the world could you find an Axolotl?

Answer: Mexico City, Mexico (within Lakes Xochimilco and Chaka)

Bonus:

What is the rarest snake in the world?

Answer: Rough-scaled Python