

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Exploring Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems

Welcome to a fascinating journey into the world of ecosystems! In this passage, we'll dive into the differences between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, exploring their unique characteristics and the life they support.

### Terrestrial Ecosystems

Terrestrial ecosystems are found on land and include a variety of habitats such as forests, grasslands, deserts, and tundra. These ecosystems are characterized by their diverse plant and animal life, which have adapted to the specific environmental conditions of each habitat. For example, forests are home to tall trees, while grasslands are dominated by grasses and herbaceous plants.

### Aquatic Ecosystems

Aquatic ecosystems, on the other hand, are found in water bodies like oceans, rivers, lakes, and ponds. They support a wide range of aquatic life, including fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and marine mammals. Unlike terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems are influenced by factors such as water depth, temperature, and salinity.

### Differences Between Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems

- **Habitat:** Terrestrial ecosystems are found on land, while aquatic ecosystems are found in water bodies.
- **Plant Life:** Terrestrial ecosystems are characterized by plants adapted to grow on land, such as trees, grasses, and shrubs. Aquatic ecosystems feature algae, seaweeds, and aquatic plants that can survive submerged in water.
- **Animal Life:** Terrestrial ecosystems support a diverse range of terrestrial animals, from insects and birds to mammals like bears and deer. Aquatic ecosystems are home to aquatic animals like fish, dolphins, and turtles.
- **Environmental Factors:** Terrestrial ecosystems are influenced by factors like sunlight, temperature, and soil type. Aquatic ecosystems are influenced by factors such as water depth, flow rate, and nutrient levels.

Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are both essential components of Earth's biosphere, supporting a rich diversity of life. By understanding the differences between these ecosystems, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexity and interconnectedness of the natural world.

