

Grade 7 Natural Science Worksheet

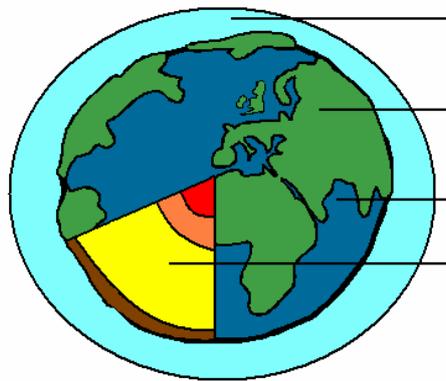
Assessment Task: Planet Earth: South Africa, environments

Different environments

Part One: Labels and definitions

1. Fill in the correct labels.

Planet Earth



atmosphere
hydrosphere
lithosphere
biosphere

[4 marks]

2. Write a definition for each of the labels you filled in on the diagram.

[8 marks]

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Part Two: Research about different environments

South Africa has a number of different environments, but they are all rather temperate, that is, not too hot and not too cold. In South Africa, generally, winters are cool to cold and summers are hot. The environments in South Africa are adapted to these climatic conditions. Down the eastern to southern coast, temperate forests can be found. The interior of the country and to the north has temperate grasslands. There are also areas of mountains as well as desert areas to the west.

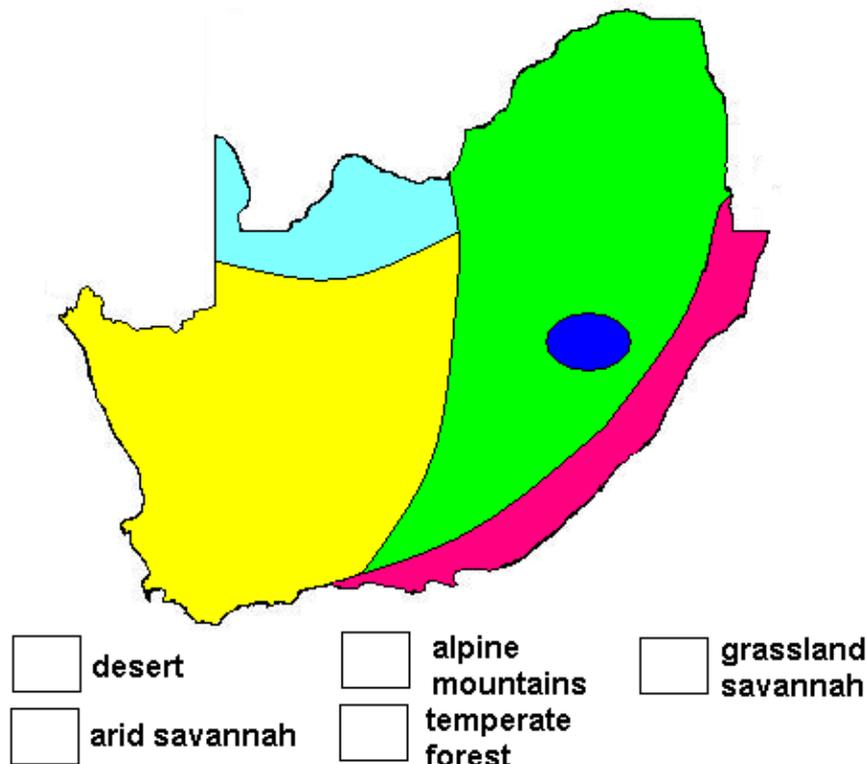
1. Use some reference books and the map of South Africa, showing different environments and complete the key.

[5 marks]

2. Write a brief description of each of the environments illustrated on the map.

[15 marks]

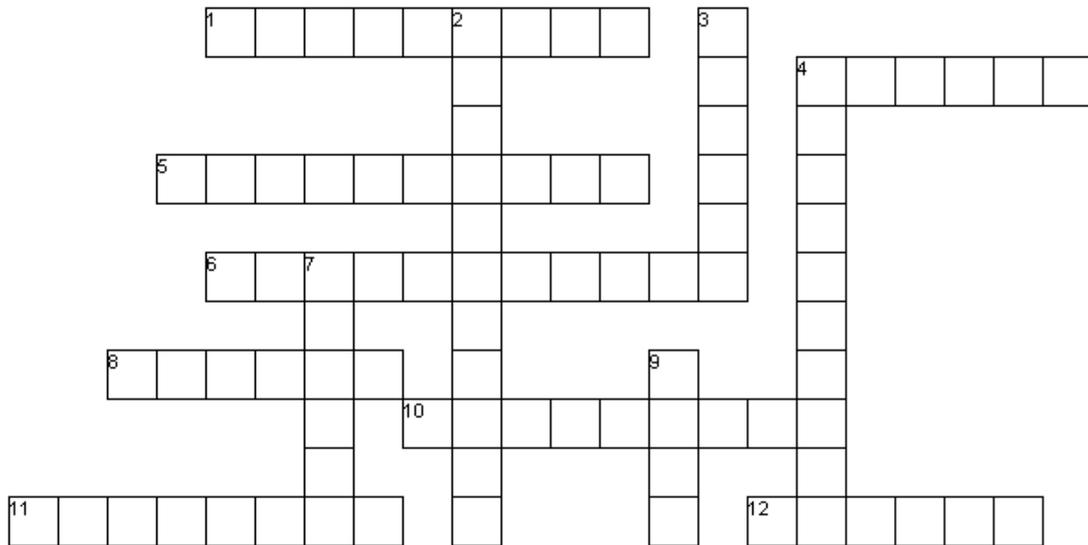
Different environments within South Africa



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Part Three: A crossword puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle:



ACROSS

1. part of the Earth where living organisms are found
4. covered in ice and snow all year
5. found along eastern coast of South Africa (2 words)
6. rocky non-living part of the earth
8. mountainous
10. not too hot and not too cold
11. grassland which tend to be flat and drier
12. dry sandy environment, little or no rain

DOWN

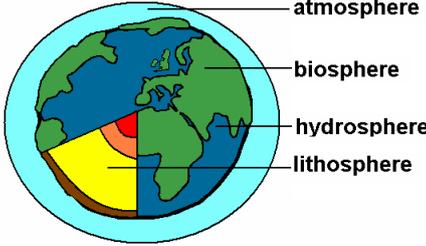
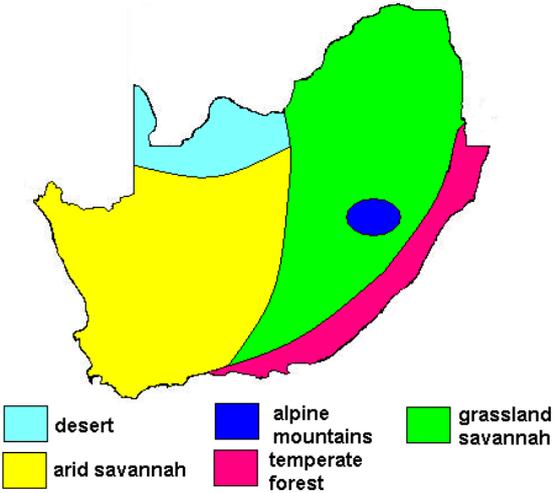
2. part of the planet made up of water
3. another word for tropical rain forest
4. gaseous part of the Earth
7. reindeer live here
9. dry

[13 marks]

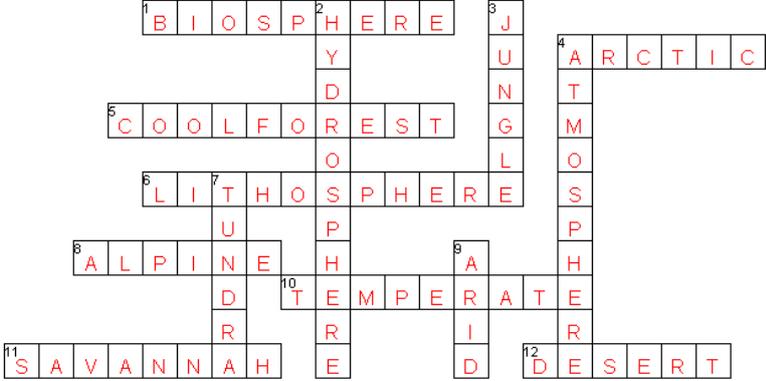
[Total: 45 marks]

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1.1	4	<p><u>Planet Earth</u></p>  <p>atmosphere biosphere hydrosphere lithosphere</p>
1.2	8	<p>Planet Earth is made up of four areas: The lithosphere, the atmosphere, the hydrosphere and the biosphere. The lithosphere is the non-living rock and soil part of the Earth. ✓✓ The atmosphere is the gaseous area surrounding the planet. ✓✓ The hydrosphere is the water component of the Earth. ✓✓ The biosphere is any part of the Earth that is inhabited by living organisms. This means that parts of the lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere can also make up parts of the biosphere. For example, rivers that contain fish and other living organisms, are part of the hydrosphere as well as the biosphere. ✓✓</p>
2.1	5	<p><u>Different environments within South Africa</u></p>  <p>desert alpine mountains grassland savannah arid savannah temperate forest</p>
2.2	15	<p>Desert: Sand or completely bare soil; very few plants and animals; extremely hot during the day and very cold at night; little rain ✓✓✓</p> <p>Arid savannah: Sandy soil; few plants and animals well adapted to</p>

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		<p>arid/dry environments; hot and dry conditions ✓✓✓</p> <p>Alpine mountains: Snow and ice seasonally at the top of the mountains, little plant and animal life; cold and cool weather; lower down mountains – grasslands and tropical forest in valleys; warmer; abundance of plant and animal life ✓✓✓</p> <p>Temperate forest: Hot to warm all year round; humid; plenty rain; abundant plant and animal life ✓✓✓</p> <p>Grassland savannah: Hot to cool; both wet and dry seasons but tends to be drier; abundance of grasses with bushes and small trees; abundant animal life ✓✓✓</p>
3	13	 <p>A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BIOSPHERE 2. JUNGLE 3. ARCTIC 4. COOL FOREST 5. LITHOSPHERE 6. ALPINE 7. UPLAND 8. TEMPERATE 9. SAVANNAH 10. DESERT