Science 14

Unit D: Matter and energy in the environment

Alberta biomes and local ecosys-tems

Grassland and parkland biomes

- Alberta grassland is open grass with few trees and a drier climate.
- Parkland mixes aspen groves with grass where moisture is higher.



Biotic and abiotic factors

- A biome is a large region with its own climate and community, such as Alberta grassland.
- Biotic factors are the living things. Abiotic factors are the non-living conditions, such as rainfall.

Key terms

biome

A large region with a characteristic climate and a characteristic community of living things.

biotic factor

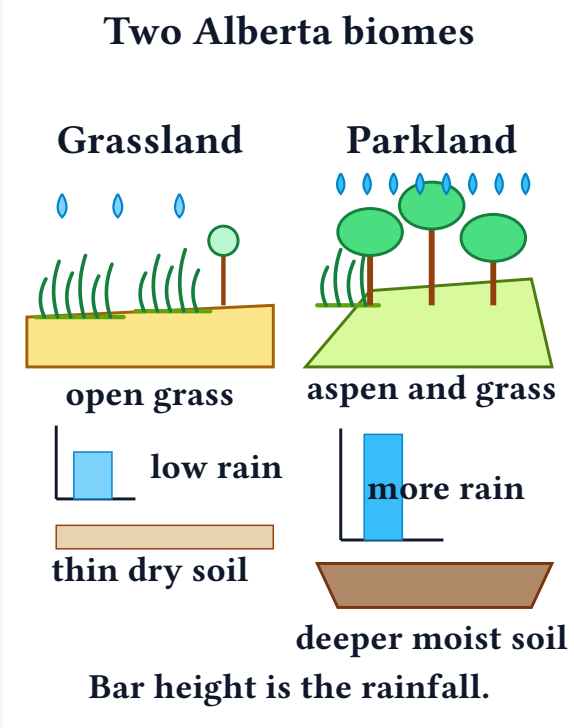
A living part of an ecosystem, such as a plant, an animal, a fungus or a bacterium.

abiotic factor

A nonliving part of an ecosystem, such as temperature, precipitation, soil, light or elevation.

Climate numbers beside the species list

- Temperature, rainfall, soil, and elevation help explain which species can live there.
- Write the living things in one column and the temperature, water, and soil readings in the other.



Grassland and parkland

- Grassland is drier and dominated by grasses.
- Parkland mixes those grasses with aspen where moisture is higher.

Moisture and aspen

- Higher moisture in parkland supports aspen groves.
- Open grassland stays treeless under drier conditions.

Two biomes and one difference

- Name grassland and parkland, or boreal forest and mountain.
- Name a difference such as moisture, temperature, or elevation.

Two biomes, one local table

- Name the climate and the plants, such as dry grass or aspen mixed with grass.
- Put the willows and the moose tracks beside the temperature and the soggy soil from that same spot.

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