

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

1. A	13. D	25. B	37. A	49. C
2. A	14. A	26. C	38. C	50. B
3. A	15. D	27. B	39. D	51. C
4. A	16. A	28. D	40. A	52. D
5. B	17. A	29. A	41. C	53. B
6. C	18. C	30. B	42. B	54. C
7. B	19. A	31. C	43. B	55. B
8. A	20. D	32. D	44. C	56. A
9. C	21. C	33. C	45. A	57. C
10. B	22. A	34. C	46. B	58. C
11. C	23. D	35. A	47. A	59. C
12. B	24. A	36. A	48. C	60. B

- The correct answer is (A).** Downcycling is the recycling of one type of product into different products. Choice (B) is incorrect because composting recycles nutrients from plants and vegetables back into the soil. Choice (C) is incorrect because this involves recycling products into new products of the same type. Choice (D) is incorrect because source separation is the process of separating waste into different recyclable categories.
- The correct answer is (A).** Bare soil is susceptible to wind and water erosion, so groundcover protects soil, provides habitats for larger soil organisms like earthworms, and can improve water availability to surrounding areas. Choice (B) is incorrect because the practice of crop rotation, rather than planting the same crop each year, is more beneficial to the soil. Choice (C) is incorrect because frequent tilling is actually damaging to soil and should be avoided. Choice (D) is incorrect because compaction reduces the amount of air, water, and space available to plant roots and soil organisms, so it should be avoided in order to maintain soil quality.
- The correct answer is (A).** Acid rain contains sulfuric acid and nitric acid, both of which can kill trees and erode limestone buildings. Choice (B) is incorrect because ozone can destroy chlorophyll in plants, but it is not a major cause of tree decimation and building erosion. Choice (C) is incorrect because although carbon monoxide affects air quality, it doesn't directly kill trees and erode buildings. Choice (D) is incorrect because particulate matter doesn't destroy forests and buildings.
- The correct answer is (A).** The carrying capacity within an environment can increase through advances in agricultural technology. Choice (B) is incorrect because the introduction of agricultural technology would increase, not decrease, the carrying capacity. Choice (C) is incorrect because there would be a continual increase in carrying capacity, not a leveling off. Choice (D) is incorrect because agricultural technology would affect the carrying capacity in a positive way.

5. **The correct answer is (B).** Industrial development of emerging nations can lead to loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation. Choice (A) is incorrect because an overgrowth of vegetation would lead to potentially greater biodiversity and ecosystem development. Choice (C) is incorrect because flooding is not the major cause of loss of biodiversity or ecosystem degradation in emerging nations. Choice (D) is incorrect because poor soil quality is a possible consequence of industrial development.
6. **The correct answer is (C).** Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is the most abundant of greenhouse gases, and it is thought to be a major contributor to global warming. Choice (A) is incorrect because nitrous oxide, not nitrogen dioxide, is a greenhouse gas. Choice (B) is incorrect because sulfur dioxide is produced when fossil fuels are burned, and it is not a greenhouse gas. Choice (D) is incorrect because ozone is not a greenhouse gas, so it doesn't contribute to global warming.
7. **The correct answer is (B).** Secondary succession begins with the destruction of an existing ecosystem. If land were flooded, existing ecosystems would be destroyed and new ones would form. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are not the best answers because these are all areas where there is likely a lack of organisms and primary succession would occur first.
8. **The correct answer is (A).** The relationship is mutualistic when both species benefit from the relationship. Fungi and plant roots both benefit from the association. The fungus obtains organic materials from the plant roots, and the branched nature of the fungus assists the plant in obtaining nutrients from the soil. Choice (B) is incorrect because in this relationship only one organism benefits, while the other is unaffected. Choice (C) is incorrect because in this relationship, one organism obtains nourishment from a host organism, but in the process it may harm the host. Choice (D) is incorrect because the relationship doesn't represent a competition between the two species.
9. **The correct answer is (C).** Natural gas is a fossil fuel, but it adds very little to air pollution, and it is the least disruptive to the environment because it produces much less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels. Choice (A) is incorrect because coal produces a great deal of air pollution. Choice (B) is incorrect because oil produces huge environmental problems if there is an oil spill in the ocean. Choice (D) is incorrect because geothermal energy is a renewable resource, not a fossil fuel.
10. **The correct answer is (B).** Every year, erosion carries away more topsoil than is formed; this occurs mostly because of agricultural practices that often leave soil unprotected from wind and water. Choice (A) is incorrect because some regions of the world lose significant amounts of soil over time. Choice (C) is incorrect because environmental scientists and conservationists work to reduce soil loss through many different soil conservation methods that have been effective in slowing the rate of erosion. Choice (D) is incorrect because soil erodes faster than it is replaced in nature.
11. **The correct answer is (C).** The correct order in a typical five-step food chain is producer, primary consumer (herbivore), secondary consumer (omnivore or carnivore), tertiary consumer (carnivore), and decomposer. Choices (A), (B), and (D) are incorrect because none of them represent the correct order of a typical food chain.
12. **The correct answer is (B).** A storm drain is a point source of water pollution because the source of pollution is readily identified. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are incorrect because these are all examples of nonpoint sources of water pollution.
13. **The correct answer is (D).** In 1976, the U.S. Congress passed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to regulate the disposal

- of hazardous waste materials. Choice (A) is incorrect because the Clean Water Acts were passed in 1977 and 1987 to help control water pollution. Choice (B) is incorrect because the Brownfields Program cleans up hazardous waste sites, but it doesn't regulate the disposal of hazardous wastes. Choice (C) is incorrect because the Soil and Water Conservation Act was passed in 1977 for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of soil, water, and natural resources.
- 14. The correct answer is (A).** Biotic factors are living organisms that interact with the environment. Choice (B) is incorrect because abiotic factors are nonliving components of an ecosystem; they are the matter, energy, and surrounding space that help to shape an environment. Choice (C) is incorrect because an environment encompasses all living and nonliving things interacting together. Choice (D) is incorrect because a biosphere is defined as the life zone of the Earth and includes all living organisms.
- 15. The correct answer is (D).** The ozone layer shields Earth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet light radiation. An intact ozone layer absorbs approximately 99 percent of ultraviolet (UV) light and prevents it from reaching Earth's surface. Choice (A) is incorrect because the ozone layer doesn't block meteor showers from reaching Earth. Choice (B) is incorrect because air pollution is found below the ozone layer of the atmosphere. Choice (C) is incorrect because carbon monoxide is a pollutant released into the atmosphere by activities on Earth's surface.
- 16. The correct answer is (A).** Nonrenewable fossil fuels and nuclear power provide 82 percent of the world's energy. Choice (B) is incorrect because 76 percent of energy comes from nonrenewable energy sources alone. Choice (C) is incorrect because about 18 percent of the world's energy comes from renewable sources at this time, most of which is produced from biomass, but energy is also supplied by wind, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric sources. Choice (D) is incorrect because 6 percent of energy comes from nuclear energy alone.
- 17. The correct answer is (A).** The salt concentration doesn't affect the carrying capacity because different species are suited for salt or freshwater ecosystems. Choice (B) is incorrect because the O₂ levels of the water do affect the carrying capacity. Choice (C) is incorrect because the amount of nutrients in the water affects the carrying capacity. Choice (D) is incorrect because the food supply available to organisms affects the carrying capacity.
- 18. The correct answer is (C).** The greenhouse effect is necessary to sustain all life on Earth. Choice (A) is incorrect because although biodiversity helps to sustain a variety of life on Earth, it is not necessary to sustain all life. Choice (B) is incorrect because the global warming can be harmful to life on Earth. Choice (D) is incorrect because the depleting ozone layer leads to global warming, not sustained life on Earth.
- 19. The correct answer is (A).** A primary goal of the Superfund Act is to clean up hazardous waste sites. Choice (B) is incorrect because it refers to a goal of the Water Quality Act. Choice (C) is incorrect because the prohibition against ocean dumping is a provision of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1988. Choice (D) is incorrect because it was the Clean Water Act of 1977 that first sought to gain control of point source pollution.
- 20. The correct answer is (D).** Global ecology is the study of all of Earth's ecosystems and how organisms interact with one other and their environment. In understanding ecology on a global scale, future problems can be predicted. Choice (A) is incorrect because although ecology is the study of ecosystems and their environment, global ecology is inclusive of all ecological systems. Choice

(B) is incorrect because biochemistry deals with a molecular scale of organisms, not a global scale. Choice (C) is incorrect because environmental science is the study of the environment, not ecological issues.

21. **The correct answer is (C).** The total fertility rate of a population is the number of children born to each woman in her lifetime. Choice (A) is incorrect because the number of births and deaths in a population is not the total fertility rate. Choice (B) is not correct because this describes the replacement fertility rate. Choice (D) is incorrect because the number of women of childbearing age doesn't reflect the total fertility rate.
22. **The correct answer is (A).** DDT is a chlorinated hydrocarbon, which is a type of persistent pesticide. Choice (B) is incorrect because diazinon is a widely used nonpersistent pesticide. Choice (C) is incorrect because organophosphates are nonpersistent insecticides in that they decompose quickly into harmless by-products. Organophosphates aren't species-specific and will kill all insects, whether they are harmful or beneficial. Choice (D) is incorrect because carbamates are nonpersistent pesticides that work by interfering with an insect's nervous system.
23. **The correct answer is (D).** One step in the Green Revolution is to produce high yields through the use of large inputs of fertilizer, pesticides, and water, which can lead to fertilizer runoff that affects the environment. Choice (A) is incorrect because the aim of the Green Revolution is to increase global food production by getting higher yields per unit of farmland, which can be done by planting larger, more efficient crops. Choice (B) is incorrect because the Green Revolution did not increase labor-intensive farming. Choice (C) is incorrect because even though one of the main goals of the Green Revolution is to increase the number of crops grown annually on a plot of land through the practice of multiple cropping, this doesn't have an impact on the environment.
24. **The correct answer is (A).** Limiting factors are not a component of evolution. In general, this term refers to factors in an ecosystem that limit its success. Choice (B) is incorrect because extinction is a common feature of evolution. Choice (C) is incorrect because genetic variability is necessary for evolution to occur. Choice (D) is incorrect because natural selection is an important part of evolution. Natural selection is the process in which the individuals of a species best able to survive and reproduce will pass on traits that will continue to be expressed in a species. This process leads to evolution of species.
25. **The correct answer is (B).** Not very many species of plants and animals can survive in the conditions of the tundra, so the biomass in these biomes is very low. Choice (A) is incorrect because a tropical rainforest provides a warm, wet climate that is advantageous to producing multiple species of plants and for sustaining many species of animals, birds, and insects—all of which would create a large biomass. Choice (C) is incorrect because even though wetlands don't produce a large biomass, there are more species living in wetlands than in the tundra. Choice (D) is incorrect because deserts don't have favorable conditions to support a large biomass, but there are more species living in a desert than in a tundra.
26. **The correct answer is (C).** The Earth Summit aimed to integrate environmental and economic goals of countries. Choices (A), (B), and (D) are incorrect because the Earth Summit dealt with integrating economic and environmental concerns.
27. **The correct answer is (B).** The EPA researches and regulates pesticide use. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are incorrect because researching and regulating pesticides is not the function of any of these agencies.
28. **The correct answer is (D).** Hawks and owls are both predators that compete for

the same prey, including mice and rabbits. Because hawks and owls are different species, this is called interspecific competition. Choice (A) is incorrect because moss and trees have a commensal relationship; some moss benefits by growing on the base of a tree, but the tree is not affected. Choice (B) is incorrect because the shark and the remora have a commensal relationship in which the remora benefits and the shark is unaffected. Choice (C) is incorrect because the tapeworm is a parasite to the dog, not a predator.

29. **The correct answer is (A).** Since the damaged area still has intact soil, it would undergo secondary succession, and grass would be one of the first organisms to grow. Choice (B) is incorrect because autotrophic microorganisms would appear in an area where there are no life forms and no intact soil. Choice (C) is incorrect because lichen would be one of the first organisms to appear during primary succession. Choice (D) is incorrect because in secondary succession, shrubs would appear after grasses.
30. **The correct answer is (B).** Fish populations decrease with increasing thermal pollution because the increase in water temperature decreases the oxygen concentration of the water. With less oxygen, fewer fish can survive. Choice (A) is incorrect because thermal pollution kills fish and doesn't increase a fish population. Choice (C) is incorrect because thermal pollution does have an effect on fish populations. Choice (D) is incorrect because thermal pollution decreases the oxygen concentration of the water; it doesn't cause mutations.
31. **The correct answer is (C).** Ethanol is an alcohol used as a fuel source; it is produced by the fermentation of sugar, starch, or cellulose. Choice (A) is incorrect because carbon dioxide is not a fuel source. Choice (B) is incorrect because coal is produced over time and under high pressure from decaying organic matter. Choice (D) is incorrect because oil is a fuel source produced by oils released from the remains of marine organisms. Like coal, oil forms over a very long period of time.
32. **The correct answer is (D).** Increased fuel efficiency and the use of catalytic converters have reduced carbon monoxide emissions. However, carbon monoxide pollution is still a problem because cars now drive greater distances and there are more cars on the road. Choices (A), (B), and (C) are incorrect because the level of all of these air pollutants is not affected by improvements in the combustion engine and catalytic converter.
33. **The correct answer is (C).** Goods are manufactured using different types of plastic. All of these plastics need to be separated and recycled by different methods, which is not a very cost-effective process. Cheap and plentiful resources such as glass and plastics may cost more to recycle than to dump and manufacture new. Choice (A) is incorrect because recycling doesn't require the use of fossil fuels. Choice (B) is incorrect because recycling can reduce air and water pollution. Choice (D) is incorrect because many municipalities have recycling programs.
34. **The correct answer is (C).** Farm animals don't release any sulfur dioxide or oxides of nitrogen into the atmosphere. Choices (A), (B), and (D) are incorrect because they are all sources of acid deposition.
35. **The correct answer is (A).** Nitrifying bacteria are able to convert ammonia in soil into nitrites and nitrates. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria are able to convert atmospheric nitrogen gas that enters the soil into ammonia that plants can use. Choice (B) is incorrect because denitrifying bacteria convert nitrites into nitrogen gas. Choice (C) is incorrect because the nitrates are taken up by plants and incorporated into amino acids. Choice (D) is incorrect because nitrogen-fixing bacteria are able to convert atmospheric nitrogen

gas that enters the soil into ammonia that plants can use.

36. **The correct answer is (A).** High genetic diversity is a level of biodiversity in which there is a great variation in genetic material within a population; therefore, individuals will have varied structure and abilities. Choice (B) is incorrect because low genetic diversity yields a population that was more uniform in structure and ability. Choice (C) is incorrect because high genetic diversity indicates a variety of genes, but doesn't imply anything about the complexity of the organisms. Choice (D) is incorrect because a high genetic diversity doesn't imply varied ecosystems.
37. **The correct answer is (A).** Fish farmers add nutrients to water in order to produce larger fish in a shorter time period. These added nutrients have led to disease spread from farm-raised fish to wild fish. Choice (B) is incorrect because the depletion of mangrove swamps would disrupt the ecosystem in a negative way, but it doesn't spread disease. Choice (C) is incorrect because the decline of fishing would not spread disease; in fact, there is an increase in the fishing industry, which leads to overfishing and smaller fish populations. Choice (D) is incorrect because estuaries are being depleted of organisms because of the flow of fertilizers, animal wastes, and pesticides down river and into estuaries. Also, estuaries aren't heavily populated.
38. **The correct answer is (C).** Decomposers are organisms that will feed off all other organisms within an ecosystem whenever those organisms shed, excrete waste, or die. Therefore, decomposers feed off organisms at every trophic level. Choice (A) is incorrect because producers are plants and at the first trophic level. Choice (B) is incorrect because carnivores feed and occupy higher trophic levels only. Choice (D) is incorrect because herbivores occupy the second trophic level.
39. **The correct answer is (D).** The Law of the Sea aims to create a legal mechanism for controlling the exploitation of mineral resources in open waters. Choice (A) is incorrect because the United Nations doesn't control the exploitation of minerals. Choice (B), the Clean Water Act, regulates water pollution. Choice (C) is incorrect because the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act controls hazardous waste disposal.
40. **The correct answer is (A).** During photosynthesis, carbon dioxide present in the atmosphere is taken in by plants (respiration) and converted into glucose, an energy source for plants and animals. Choice (B) is incorrect because animals use the process of oxygen respiration to breathe and convert oxygen into carbon dioxide. Choice (C) is not correct because the process of digestion doesn't occur in plants. Choice (D) is incorrect because osmosis doesn't play a role in providing an energy source.
41. **The correct answer is (C).** Trickle irrigation is a very efficient method in which 90 to 95 percent of the water reaches the crops. In this method, small flexible tubing is inserted at or below ground level, and small holes in the tubing deliver water to the plant roots. Choice (A) is incorrect because gravity flow irrigation consists of unlined ditches filled with water; the water flows by gravity to the crops. Choice (B) is incorrect because flood irrigation includes large ditches filled with water similar to gravity flow irrigation. Choice (D) is incorrect because center-pivot irrigation systems use center-pivot sprinklers that move in a circular motion to deliver water to crops, which uses a large amount of water.
42. **The correct answer is (B).** Natural wetlands and forests absorb more CO_2 from the atmosphere than other biomes. Trees and plant life are abundant in these biomes, and so a large amount of CO_2 is absorbed. Choice (A) is incorrect because tundra and deserts don't have a great amount of vegetation.

- Choice (C) is incorrect because savannas and chaparral biomes have plant life, but they don't absorb as much CO_2 as forests with large trees and wetlands. Choice (D) is incorrect because oceans don't absorb CO_2 .
43. **The correct answer is (B).** The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 required that all mining companies replant vegetation on land that was strip mined. Choice (A) is incorrect because the land doesn't only need to be covered with topsoil, but to have vegetation planted. Choice (C) is incorrect because there is no regulation specifying that strip-mined land be converted into lakes. Choice (D) is incorrect because the land doesn't need to be decontaminated.
44. **The correct answer is (C).** The depth of the troposphere, the atmospheric layer closest to Earth's surface, is dependent on the position of Earth and the season. Choice (A) is incorrect because the mesosphere depth isn't dependent on Earth's position or the seasons. Choice (B) is incorrect because the stratosphere depth isn't dependent on Earth's position or the seasons. Choice (D) is incorrect because the thermosphere depth isn't dependent on Earth's position or the seasons.
45. **The correct answer is (A).** Sediment rock called shale contains dispersed oil droplets, but this oil is difficult to extract. Choice (B) is incorrect because coal is rock formed from decaying organic matter. Choice (C) is incorrect because natural gas isn't deposited in rock; it is underground above layers of oil and shale. Choice (D) is incorrect because nuclear energy isn't a fossil fuel.
46. **The correct answer is (B).** There is enough wind power in Texas and the Dakotas to power the entire United States. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are incorrect because there is not enough wind power in the states listed to power the whole country.
47. **The correct answer is (A).** In practices of sustainable agriculture, multiple crops are planted on the same plot and harvested at different times. Choice (B) is incorrect because sustainable agriculture doesn't promote the use of fertilizers or chemical pesticides. Choice (C) is incorrect because fields aren't left bare or unplanted. Choice (D) is incorrect because multiple crops are planted in one field.
48. **The correct answer is (C).** When sulfur trioxide enters the atmosphere, it can react with water vapor to form sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4 , which is the main component of acid rain. Choice (A) is incorrect because nitrogen dioxide, NO_2 , is not a component of acid rain. Choice (B) is incorrect because sulfuric acid is the product formed in the atmosphere from sulfur trioxide. Choice (D) is incorrect because carbon monoxide, CO , is not a component of acid rain.
49. **The correct answer is (C).** A concept frequently used in environmental risk assessment is that of source-pathway-receptor. The pathway between a hazard (source) and a receptor is investigated. If no pathway exists, then there is no risk to the environment. If a pathway links a source to a receptor, then the consequences need to be assessed. Choice (A) is incorrect because pollution control is an action taken to reduce a risk, not assess one. Choice (B) is incorrect because damage control isn't a way to assess environmental risks. Choice (D) is incorrect because control of a hazard isn't a means of assessment, but a means of reducing risk.
50. **The correct answer is (B).** Brown beetles are more camouflaged by soil and dirt, so birds don't notice them as easily as green beetles. Therefore, the brown beetle is less likely to be eaten and more likely to live long enough to reproduce. This process of natural selection favors the brown beetle over the green beetle. Choice (A) is incorrect because the taste of the beetles is no different. Choice (C) is incorrect because

the reproduction rate is no different. Choice (D) is incorrect because the natural selection doesn't happen by chance.

- 51. The correct answer is (C).** The stewardship worldview maintains that people have an ethical responsibility to be good stewards of Earth and need to manage it well for future generations. Choice (A) is incorrect because this human-centered worldview focuses on future generations. Choice (B) is incorrect because the stewardship worldview is a human-centered view of the environment. Choice (D) is incorrect because this isn't part of the stewardship worldview.
- 52. The correct answer is (D).** A rapid increase of CO_2 in the atmosphere was first observed during the Industrial Revolution when there was a significant increase in the amount of coal burned for energy. Choice (A) is incorrect because the thinning of the ozone layer over Antarctica may be the result of an increase in CO_2 , but it is not the cause of an increase in CO_2 . Choice (B) is incorrect because warmer ocean temperatures don't increase CO_2 . Choice (C) is incorrect because there is less vegetation in many areas, not more.
- 53. The correct answer is (B).** Genetic cross-breeding is a method in which scientists cross-pollinate plants with desired traits until they generate seeds that will grow plants with the target desired traits. Choice (A) is incorrect because mutations wouldn't always produce desired traits. Choice (C) is incorrect because chemical enhancement isn't always a safe way to obtain plants with desired traits. Choice (D) is incorrect because sustainable farming is an agricultural practice of farming that doesn't use chemicals.
- 54. The correct answer is (C).** Humans can best be described as k-strategists because k-selected species have few offspring and spend a great deal of energy and time ensuring that their offspring survive to reproductive age. Choice (A) is incorrect because r-selected species have a large number of offspring and don't care for them after they are born. Choice (B) is incorrect because I-strategist is not a term relevant to population biology. Choice (D) is incorrect because survivalist is not a term used to describe human populations.
- 55. The correct answer is (B).** Contour farming involves tilling at right angles to the slope of the land. In this method, small ridges are created that help prevent water from running down the slope and eroding the soil. Choice (A) is incorrect because it describes strip tillage, which is a method that involves tilling only in the narrow strip that is to receive the seeds. The rest of the soil and any crop residue from the previous year are left undisturbed. Choice (C) is incorrect because it is describing the method of diversifying cropping systems, which helps supply the soil with a variety of nutrients. Choice (D) is incorrect because the method of leaving a ridge from the previous year is ridge tillage.
- 56. The correct answer is (A).** An increase in land developed for agricultural use has caused an increase in soil erosion. Choice (B) is incorrect because air pollution is not caused by agricultural land use. Choice (C) is incorrect because agricultural practices helped to increase crop yields. Choice (D) is incorrect because the Agricultural Revolution didn't cause an increase in pests.
- 57. The correct answer is (C).** The limiting factor is a condition of an environment that determines the population size of a given organism. Choice (A) is incorrect because a limiting factor is an environmental influence on the population of an organism, but it doesn't affect fertility rate. Choice (B) is incorrect because a limiting factor is an extrinsic factor. Choice (D) is incorrect because the limiting factor is a condition within the environment.

58. **The correct answer is (C).** Deforestation worldwide is largely due to the clearing of land for agricultural purposes. Choice (A) is incorrect because acid rain affects some forests, but most forests are cleared by human activity. Choice (B) is incorrect because drought is not a usual cause of deforestation. Choice (D) is incorrect because although forest fires are a cause of deforestation, more forests are cleared for agricultural purposes than affected by forest fires.
59. **The correct answer is (C).** In a well-designed sanitary landfill, methane gas is trapped as it is released from the decomposing waste. It can then be used as an energy source. Choice (A) is incorrect because methane gas, not ethane, is obtained from landfills. Choice (B) is incorrect because hydrogen is not obtained from a landfill. Choice (D) is incorrect because steam is obtained from geothermal wells, not landfills.
60. **The correct answer is (B).** Desertification occurs most often in regions like northern Africa because there is irregular and unpredictable rainfall. Choice (A) is incorrect because desertification is more prevalent in northern Africa than the western United States. Choice (C) is incorrect because desertification is not a particular problem in eastern Europe. Choice (D) is incorrect because Central America receives heavy rainfall.