Non-Living Factors in Our World

Instructions: Read the passage below about non-living factors. Then, answer the multiple-choice questions that follow. Finally, fill in the graphic organizer with information from the passage and write the main idea.



Our world is made up of many different things. Some of these things are alive, like plants and animals. Other things are not alive. These non-living things are also very important for living things. We call these non-living things abiotic factors. Abiotic factors play a big role in where plants and animals can live and how well they can survive.

One important abiotic factor is sunlight. Plants need sunlight to make their own food through a process called photosynthesis. Without enough sunlight, plants cannot grow. Animals that eat plants also depend on sunlight indirectly. Sunlight also affects the temperature of an area. Some animals prefer warm places, while others like it cold.

Water is another essential abiotic factor. All living things need water to survive. Plants need water to grow, and animals need it to drink. Water also makes up a large part of our bodies. Different places on Earth have different amounts of water. Some areas have lots of rain, while others are very dry.

Air is also a crucial abiotic factor. Animals need oxygen in the air to breathe. Plants also use gases in the air, like carbon dioxide, for photosynthesis. Wind, which is moving air, can also affect living things. It can help spread seeds or make the temperature feel cooler.



Finally, soil is an important abiotic factor, especially for plants. Soil provides plants with nutrients and a place to anchor their roots. Different types of soil have different amounts of nutrients and water. Temperature is also a key abiotic factor. It affects how fast living things grow and the types of organisms that can live in a certain place.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What are non-living things called?
   a) Biotic factors
   b) Abiotic factors
   c) Living organisms
   d) Natural resources

2. Which abiotic factor do plants need to make food?
   a) Water
   b) Air
   c) Sunlight
   d) Soil

3. What gas in the air do animals need to breathe?
   a) Carbon dioxide
   b) Oxygen
   c) Nitrogen
   d) Hydrogen

4. How does soil help plants?
   a) It provides them with sunlight.
   b) It gives them water to drink.
   c) It provides nutrients and anchors their roots.
   d) It helps them breathe.

5. What is one way wind can affect living things?
   a) It helps animals find food.
   b) It makes the air warmer.
   c) It can spread seeds.
   d) It creates more water.

6. Why is water important for living things?
   a) It helps them stay warm.
   b) They need it to survive.
   c) It provides them with sunlight.
   d) It helps them breathe.

7. How does sunlight affect the temperature of an area?
   a) It makes all areas cold.
   b) It has no effect on temperature.
   c) It affects whether an area is warm or cold.
   d) It only affects the temperature at night.

8. What process do plants use sunlight for?
   a) Respiration
   b) Digestion
   c) Photosynthesis
   d) Transpiration

9. Which of the following is NOT an abiotic factor mentioned in the passage?
   a) Sunlight
   b) Water
   c) Animals
   d) Air

10. How does temperature affect living things?
   a) It helps them find shelter.
   b) It affects how fast they grow and what can live there.
   c) It provides them with nutrients.
   d) It helps them breathe.

Graphic Organizer

Supporting Detail	Main Idea
Sunlight	
Water	
Air	
Soil	
Temperature	

Answer Key

Multiple Choice:

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. c
6. b
7. c
8. c
9. c
10. b

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Supporting Detail	Main Idea
Sunlight: Needed by plants for photosynthesis; affects temperature.	Non-living, or abiotic, factors like sunlight, water, air, soil, and temperature are very important for living things and play a crucial role in where organisms can live and thrive.

Water: All living things need it to survive; plants need it to grow.	
Air: Animals need oxygen to breathe; plants use gases for photosynthesis; wind can spread seeds.	
Soil: Provides plants with nutrients and anchors their roots.	
Temperature: Affects how fast living things grow and the types of organisms that can live in an area.	