



Student Worksheet (Answers)

Grades 6-8

Name: _____

***A selection of questions within the worksheet have been designed to support South Dakota Science Standards, updated as of 2024.*

The answers can be found by exploring the dome, and using your brain!

SAFARI ROOM (located in the center of the Sky Dome)

1. There is a vine called Bougainvillea that twists around the central tree in the middle of the room. What is its range?

Answer: Brazil

2. Most of the small lizards in this room are green or brown. Why do you think that is?

Answer: Camouflage to blend in with the surrounding environment of trees, plants, and rocks to avoid predation.

3. An **adaptation** is a characteristic that helps an organism to be better suited for its environment. What are two adaptations of the parrots, and how might these traits benefit them?

Answer: Parrots have many adaptations including: feathers (for flight and insulation), strong beaks (to crack open nuts, peel fruits, and climb branches), bright colors (to blend into brightly colored foliage), two toes in front and two in back (to better grip onto branches), loud voices (to be heard through dense forests), excellent vision (to find food and avoid predators), and more.

4. **(MS-LS2-4)** How would the populations of the tropical plants within the Safari Room be affected by a delay/ lack in water? Why?

Answer: They would become stressed and wilt, and possibly even die if water was delayed as they have adapted to an environment where rain is frequent. Plants dying off can affect the species' population.

5. Draw a food web with at least 6 organisms found in the Safari Room. (Hint: you might not see them, but there are crickets, mealworms, and pillbugs).

Answer: There are many possible answers for this question.

MEZZANINE (upstairs level of the Sky Dome)

1. **(MS-LS4-1)** What makes the wings of Pterosaurs different from bats and birds?

Answer: They were formed from an extension of the little finger.

2. **(MS-SL4-2)** What adaptation allows both the ancient Gavial and modern day Gharial to catch fish?

Answer: A narrow snout.

3. List 2 differences between alligators and crocodiles:

Answer:

Alligators: Strongly prefer freshwater; wider, shorter head with blunt U-shaped snout; only found in the Southeast United States and China; when the mouth is closed, only the upper teeth are visible.

Crocodiles: Can live in fresh and saltwater; most have longer, narrow V-shaped snout, and eyes further forward on the head; found in Africa, Australia, and the America; when the mouth is closed, both the upper and lower teeth can be visible.

4. What is the common and scientific name of the “Fierce Snake”?

Answer: Common name- Inland Taipan; Scientific name- *Oxyuranus microlepidotus*

5. The Black Mamba is the second-longest venomous snake in the world. How long can they get?

Answer: 11 feet

6. In what region of the world are Boomslang snakes found?

Answer: Tropical Africa south of the Sahara

7. Why do **you** think very large snakes occur in the tropics, but not here in the Midwest?

Answer: (Answers may vary as there is no direct answer written in the displays)
For example: In tropical areas, the temperature is higher (and stays so year-round), which can support large snakes. Snakes are cold blooded (or ectothermic), they need to get their heat from the environment, and larger things take longer to heat up. In the cooler Midwest, a very large snake wouldn't be able to maintain a proper temperature, and wouldn't easily survive. Thus snakes found in the Midwest are smaller in size. An abundance of prey in tropical areas can also play a role.

8. What does the Perentie Monitor eat?

Answer: a,b,d,e

1. What is the possible benefit of the Desert Horned Viper's “horns” ?

Answer: To help keep the sand out of their eyes.

LOWER RING (downstairs level of the Sky Dome)

1. List four species of Crocodilians that can be found in Asia:

Answer: Possible answers can include: Philippine Crocodile, Chinese Alligator, Mugger Crocodile, Salt Water Crocodile, Siamese Crocodile, False Gharial, and Gharial.

2. What is a **typical** weight for an alligator snapping turtle?

Answer: 200 lbs.

3. What are two reasons that Egyptian Saw- scaled Vipers are considered dangerous?

Answer: Possible answers can include: 1. Its widespread range; 2. Its proximity to highly populated areas; 3. Its venom is extremely toxic to humans; 4. Its temperament; 5. An antivenom that is only moderately effective.

4. Which species is considered the most dangerous crocodilian at Reptile Gardens? Why?

Answer: The Cuban Crocodile. Because they are absolutely fearless, incredibly agile, and very intelligent.

5. How long can a Komodo Dragon get? Males: _____ Females: _____

Answer: Males: 10 feet; Females: 6-7 feet.

6. Green and Black Poison Arrow Frogs produce enough skin toxin to kill up to _____ mice, and _____ humans.

Answer: 20,000 mice; 10 humans.

7. How did the Amazon Milk Frog get its name?

Answer: Because this species secretes a milky white toxin when threatened.

Bonus:

What is a nickname for the Frilled Lizard?

Answer: "Bicycle lizard"