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Question: 1

On a standard biomass pyramid, level 3 corresponds to which trophic level?

- A. Producers
- B. Decomposers
- C. Primary consumers
- D. Primary carnivores
- E. Secondary carnivores

Answer: D

Explanation:

At the lowest trophic level are the producers, followed by primary consumers. Primary carnivores follow consumers, followed by secondary carnivores.

Question: 2

In the food chain below, what do vultures represent?

grass → cow → wolf → vulture

- A. Scavengers
- B. Detritivores
- C. Primary carnivores
- D. Herbivores
- E. Secondary consumers

Answer: A

Explanation:

Vultures eat carrion, or dead animals, so they are considered scavengers. Detritivores are heterotrophs that eat decomposing organic matter such as leaf litter. They are usually small.

Question: 3

Which of the following is the major way in which carbon is released into the environment?

- A. Transpiration
- B. Respiration
- C. Fixation
- D. Sedimentation

E. Absorption

Answer: B

Explanation:

Carbon is released in the form of CO_2 through respiration, burning, and decomposition.

Question: 4

What is the largest reservoir of nitrogen on the planet?

- A. The ocean
- B. Plants
- C. Soil
- D. The atmosphere
- E. Sediments, including fossil fuels

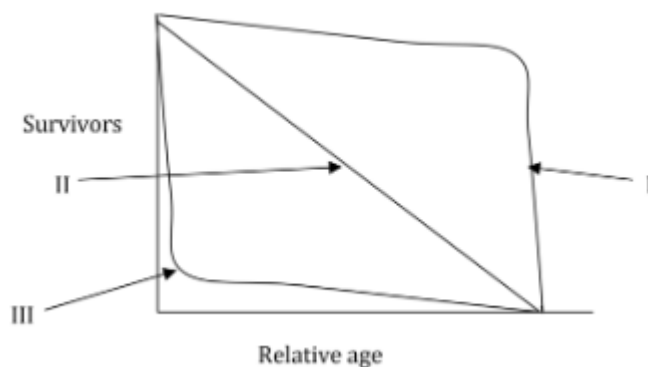
Answer: D

Explanation:

Most nitrogen is in the atmosphere in the form of N_2 . In order for it to be used by living things, it must be fixed by nitrogen-fixing bacteria. These microorganisms convert N_2 to ammonia, which then forms NH_4^+ (ammonium).

Question: 5

The diagram below represents the three types of survivorship curves, describing how mortality varies as species age. Which of the following species is most likely to exhibit Type I survivorship?



- A. Frogs
- B. Oysters
- C. Salmon
- D. Dolphins
- E. Shrimp

Answer: D

Explanation:

Type I curves describe species in which most individuals survive to middle age, after which deaths increase. Dolphins have few offspring, provide extended care to the young, and live a long time.

Question: 6

A population of 1,000 individuals has 110 births and 10 deaths in a year. Its growth rate (r) is equal to

- A. 0.01 per year
- B. 0.1 per year
- C. 0.09 per year
- D. 0.11 per year
- E. 0.009 per year

Answer: B

Explanation:

The growth rate is equal to the difference between births and deaths divided by population

size. In this case, $r = \frac{110-10}{1,000} = 0.1$.

Question: 7

During primary succession, which species would most likely be a pioneer species?

- A. Lichens
- B. Fir trees
- C. Mosquitoes
- D. Dragonflies
- E. Mushrooms

Answer: A

Explanation:

Pioneer species colonize vacant habitats, and the first such species in a habitat demonstrate primary succession. Succession on rock or lava often begins with lichens. Lichens need very little organic material and can erode rock into soil to provide a growth substrate for other organisms.

Question: 8

Which of the following habitats would provide an opportunity for secondary succession?

- A. A retreating glacier

- B. Burned cropland
- C. A newly formed volcanic island
- D. A 500-year-old forest
- E. A sand dune

Answer: B

Explanation:

Secondary succession occurs when a habitat has been entirely or partially disturbed or destroyed by abandonment, burning, storms, etc.

Question: 9

Which biome is most likely to support the growth of epiphytes?

- A. Deserts
- B. Tropical rain forests
- C. Temperate deciduous forests
- D. Taigas
- E. Savannas

Answer: B

Explanation:

Epiphytes are plants that grow in the canopy of trees, and the tropical rain forest has a rich canopy because of its density and extensive moisture.

Question: 10

Which of the following is NOT a natural dispersal process that would lead to species colonization on an island?

- A. Mussels carried into a lake on the hull of a ship
- B. Drought connecting an island to other land
- C. Floating seeds
- D. Animals swimming long distances
- E. Birds adapted to flying long distances

Answer: A

Explanation:

Transportation by humans or human-associated means is not considered a natural dispersal process.

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