

Serengeti Plain

Name _____

The Serengeti Plain is an area located in north-central Tanzania that is rife with wildlife and natural beauty. The vast area features many ecosystems, including savannah, woodland, and grasslands. Outcroppings of granite called kopjes also dot the plains. This variation may be due to extreme weather patterns and a combination of heat and wind; environmental scientists also theorize that a group of volcanoes may have shaped the land in the past, as well as added mountains and craters to it.

The Serengeti Plain is home to millions of animals. The southern grasslands are home to zebras and wildebeests, and the northern savannah is dominated by gazelles and ostriches. Further north of the savannah in a hilly, woody region are the elephants. Due to the sheer amount of wildlife found in the Serengeti, a section of it is protected and preserved as the Serengeti National Park. Human habitation is forbidden within the boundaries of the park. Tourism helps generate its revenue.

The climate of the Serengeti is often very warm and dry, but features rain between March and May. The alternation between dry and wet during the year leads to the longest overland migration in the world known as the circular migration of zebras and wildebeest. When the grasslands dry up in April, these animals migrate north to the plains in search of a wetter habitat. During the travel northward, males from each species fight for dominance and for mating partners, making the trek an arduous and tense one. In November, after the zebras and wildebeests have grazed in the plains, they migrate back south to the grasslands. The journey back is extremely dangerous for both species due to the possibility of violent wildebeest stampedes and predation from lions and cheetahs. The migration is a treacherous one, but one that the animals make twice a year to thrive in an optimal climate and ensure the survival of their species.

1. Why does the Serengeti Plain have so many ecosystems?

- A. Because there are many kinds of animals
- B. Because it is in Africa
- C. Because of the region's cold climate
- D. Because of extreme weather patterns

2. What was the effect of volcanoes on the Serengeti Plain?

- A. Rivers and rainforests
- B. Mountains and craters
- C. A huge variety of animals
- D. Hot and cold temperatures

- 3. Where would I go to see zebras in the Serengeti Plain?**
- A. Northern savanna
 - B. North of the northern savanna
 - C. Southern grasslands
 - D. South of the southern grasslands
- 4. Where do humans live within Serengeti National Park?**
- A. Northern savanna
 - B. North of the northern savanna
 - C. Southern grasslands
 - D. Humans do not live in the park
- 5. Which of the following words best describes the males as they migrate northward?**
- A. peaceful
 - B. desperate
 - C. sick
 - D. aggressive
- 6. Which of the following best describes the location of wildebeest in the Serengeti Plain?**
- A. In October, they are most likely in the grasslands to the south and in May, they are most likely in the plains to the north
 - B. In October they are most likely in the plains to the north and in May, they are most likely in the grasslands to the south
 - C. In June, they are mostly likely migrating and in November they remain in the plains to the north.
 - D. They are in the opposite location of zebras
- 7. What question IS NOT answered in the passage?**
- A. When is it most likely to rain in the Serengeti Plain?
 - B. When do the grasslands dry up in the Serengeti Plain?
 - C. Where is the best place in the Serengeti to see lions?
 - D. Where is the best place to find elephants in the Serengeti Plain?