

## Unit Assessment: Teacher Evaluation Guide

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**Teacher Directions:** The Unit Assessment is not intended to assess student understanding of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Assessment of these standards is done in each unit and lesson through a variety of hands-on and other activities.

The Unit Assessment for students is set as a fifty-point test. Assessment items with simpler answers that test knowledge but not the deeper understandings of the content, such as multiple choice, are worth fewer points. Assessment items that require more complex thinking and a deeper understanding of the content, such as providing short answers that explain phenomena, are worth more points. Assessment items that require more extensive understanding of content—as well as synthesis of that content and other student knowledge—are weighted with more points.

## Expected Answers and Model Responses

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1. polar bear: tundra (4 points)  
dolphin: ocean  
camel: desert  
gorilla: forest
2. b) cactus (3 points)  
d) camel  
f) snake
3. Sample answer: Zebras. They live in groups to better protect themselves from predators. (5 points)
4. thick fur—tundra (4 points)  
claws—underground  
shells—seashore  
places to store water—desert
5. Sample answer: Tundras are very cold places. They have few trees or vegetation. They are often covered in snow. Deserts are very warm places during the day and cold at night. They have few trees and little vegetation. They are often covered in sand. (5 points)
6. a) natural (7 points)  
b) human-made  
c) natural  
d) natural  
e) human-made  
f) human-made  
g) natural

- 7.** habitat: (sample) ice sheets (4 points)  
animal: (sample) polar bear  
change: (sample) Ice sheets are melting.  
response: (sample) Polar bears may change their diet or try to find new ice sheets.
- 8.** Sample answer: A sea dries up and becomes a desert. Gills on fish would be harmful because the fish need water to breathe and cannot live in a desert. (3 points)
- 9.** Problem to solve: Sample answer: By keeping water out, the levee will save the lives of many animals that live on the coast.  
Problem to cause: Sample answer: Some land animals eat fish. The levee may stop them from getting food. (2 points)
- 10.** 2, 5, 1, 4, 3 (5 points)
- 11.** **c)** a plant impression in rock (3 points)  
**e)** a dinosaur tooth on the ground  
**f)** a footprint in a rock slab
- 12.** Sample answer: The oldest and youngest habitats in the layers had sea creatures in them. This means that they were both watery areas. The middle habitat contained dinosaurs. This meant that it was a land area. The rock layers show that the habitats went from water, to land, and back to water over time. (5 points)