

3. The diversity of plant life and the tendency of plants to closely adapt to the environment make them the preferred choice for classifying ecosystems among scientists.

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1. Climate, soil quality, and plant and animal life are distinguishing factors.
2. Organisms tend to adapt to their ecosystems and, therefore, ecosystems often contain unique sets of living organisms.



1. Each of the areas shown represents an ecosystem. What factors could be used to distinguish one from the others?
2. Does it seem reasonable to classify an ecosystem based on what organisms live in it? Explain your answer.
3. Why might plants be a better choice than animals for use in classifying distinct ecosystems? Explain your answer.