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| <p>climate</p> | <p>a region with specified weather conditions or the average weather conditions of a particular place or region</p> |
| <p>factors</p> | <p>numbers that are multiplied to get a product</p> |
| <p>floor</p> | <p>a ground surface</p> |
| <p>biotic</p> | <p>having to do with the living part of the ecosystem</p> |
| <p>canopy</p> | <p>the part of a forest just below the uppermost branches of the tallest trees</p> |

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| corals | stony or horny deposits that are composed of the skeletons of polyps |
| decomposers | organisms that break down other organisms |
| desert | a major terrestrial environment that receives less than 25 centimeters (10 inches) of rain each year |
| ecosystems | communities of organisms interacting with each other and with the nonliving environment |
| environments | different sets of living and nonliving things that surround given organisms |

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| <p>layers</p> | <p>thicknesses or folds over and under one another, as in layers of rock</p> |
| <p>living</p> | <p>having life</p> |
| <p>microorganisms</p> | <p>organisms that are too small to see without a microscope such as bacteria and algae</p> |
| <p>nonliving</p> | <p>never having been alive or no longer alive</p> |
| <p>ponds</p> | <p>standing-water environments that are small and shallow</p> |

reefs

rocks or ridges of sand at or near the surface of water

temperature

the degree of hotness or coldness of something (as air, water, or the body) as shown by a thermometer

tortoises

land dwelling turtles

tropical

of, relating to, occurring in, or used in the tropics, an environment that is warm or hot all year