

Where do you live? The Bioregional Quiz

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From: Home, A Bioregional Reader

What follows is a self-scoring test on basic environmental perception of place. Scoring is done on the honor system, so if you fudge, cheat, or elude, you also get an idea of where you live. The quiz is culture-bound, favoring those people who live in the country over city dwellers, and scores can be adjusted accordingly. Most of the questions, however, are of such a basic nature that undue allowances are not necessary.

1. Where is the water coming from that you will drink? Trace it from tap to precipitation. Where will it go?
2. How many days until the moon is full? (Slack of two days is allowed.)
3. What soil series are you standing on?
4. What was the total rainfall in this area last year?
5. When was the last time a fire burned in this area?
6. What were the primary subsistence techniques of the culture that lived in this area before the present one?
7. Name five native edible plants in this region and their season(s) of availability.
8. From what direction do winter storms generally come in this region?
9. Where does your garbage go when you are finished with it?
10. How long is the growing season in this area?
11. Which day of the year are the shadows the shortest?
12. When do the deer rut in this region and when are their young born?
13. Name five grasses in this area. Are any of them native?
14. Name five resident and five migratory birds in this area.
15. What is the land use history of this place we are staying?
16. What primary ecological event/process influenced this place?
17. What species are now extinct in this area?
18. What are the major plant associations in your region?
19. From where you're reading this, point north.
20. What spring wildflower is consistently among the first to bloom here?

Scoring:

- 0-3 You have a long way to go - you might be lost.
4-7 It's hard to be in two places at once when you're not anywhere at all.
8-12 A fairly firm grasp of the obvious.
13-16 You're paying attention.
17-19 You know where you're at.
20 You not only know where you're at, you know where it's at.