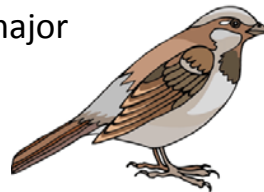




Competition Causes Change

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Natural environments are in a constant state of change, and as more and more living things appear in the environment, they bring more change with them, largely because they compete for resources. For example, at the beginning of the spring, grasses and flowers begin to grow from the soil. This brings insects to the area, who use the plants for shelter and for food. Small shrubs begin to grow, and more animals move to the environment. For example, birds arrive. The birds eat the insects, and perhaps fruit from the shrubs. All the plants, insects and animals in the environment compete for food, water, and other needs. When trees begin to grow, they increase the competition between the plants for light, space and water. Larger plants require more of these resources. As the larger plants grow, some of the smaller ones may die. Larger plants mean larger animals also come to the environment. The larger animals eat more of the plants, and may also eat the smaller animals living there. Competition between the living things in a given environment is a major source of change within that environment.



1. What is an *environment*?

2. What does *compete* mean?

3. What is a *resource*? What are some examples of *resources* in the article?
