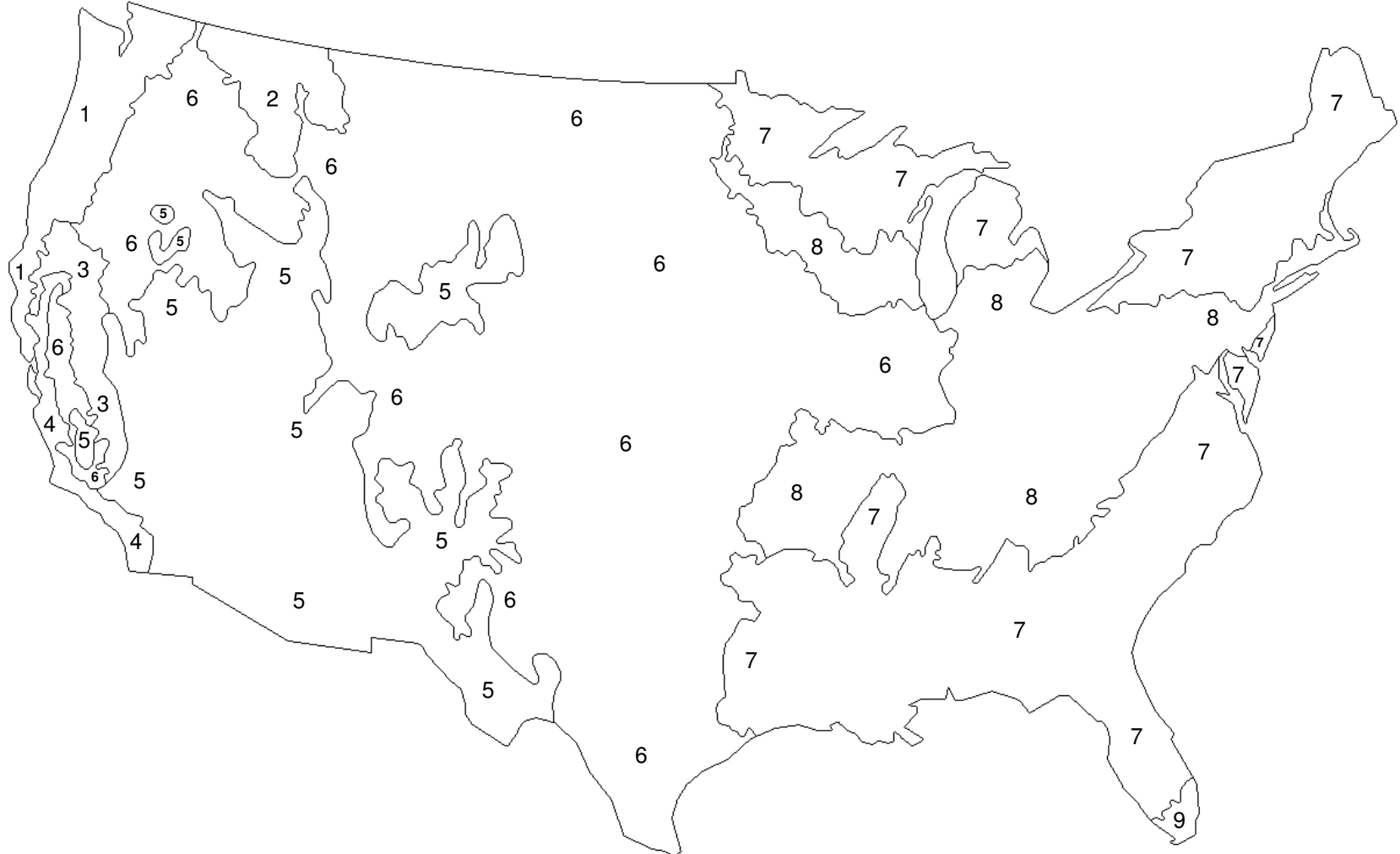


Name: _____



Vegetation of the United States

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Pacific | 6 Grassland |
| 2 Columbia | 7 Mixed Forest |
| 3 Sierra | 8 Deciduous |
| 4 Chaparral | 9 Everglades |
| 5 Desert | |

Vegetation of the United States

In the contiguous (connected) United States, there are 9 general vegetation zones. Each one can be classified according to certain characteristics.

Pacific. Ancient forests cover a natural vegetation zone along the Northwest coast. Temperatures are mild year round. Trees include the California redwood, cedar, and Douglas fir.

Columbia. Conifer trees such as the ponderosa pine, cedar, hemlock and Douglas fir follow the Columbia River into northern Washington and Idaho. Few broadleaf trees survive in this climate, but there is some grass for grazing cattle.

Sierra. Following along the Sierra Nevada mountain range are needleleaf trees such as pines. High elevations and very cold, snowy winters support only a few broadleaf trees, like the oakwood.

Chaparral. The California chaparral has a hot, dry climate. Plants grow low to the ground. The grass cover turns brown in the winter. Broadleaf and conifer trees rarely grow higher than twenty feet here.

Desert. Deserts are hot, cool, or warm. Hot areas have little vegetation. Warm and cool deserts have shrubs, grasses, and succulents like cacti.

Grassland. The dry, windy climate of the central United States produces grasses with long roots that hold the soil. This zone has a variety of temperatures and growing seasons because of its size.

Mixed Forest. Mixed pine and broadleaf trees grow in areas where the natural vegetation was cleared—much of it before this century. Broadleaf trees dominate in the South while pine trees are most common along the Great Lakes.

Deciduous. Trees that lose their leaves in winter, such as oak, maple, walnut, and beech, can be found in states where there are warm summers and cold winters. Much of the vegetation here is actual (cultivated non-natural plants).

Everglades. Magnolia, cypress, and mangrove trees grow in this area of high moisture and very warm temperatures.