



Name _____

Date _____

Brief-Constructed Response

Biotic and Abiotic Factors

In a tropical rain forest, tall trees crowd together, blocking the path of sunlight to the wet forest floor. Among the plants adapted to these conditions are climbers, such as vines that grow up along the tree trunks. Other plants, such as orchids, grow attached to tree branches and are not rooted in the ground. Even a small area of forest provides various habitats for vast numbers of animal and plant species. Many insects and birds are plant pollinators. Fruit-eating animals, such as birds and bats, spread seeds. Insects, fungi, and bacteria break down plant and animal matter, releasing nutrients into the soil. Predators such as jaguars and snakes, feed on smaller animals.

Describe how organisms and populations in the tropical rain forest both depend on and compete for biotic and abiotic factors. In your answer, identify which factors are biotic and which are abiotic.