Penny Plant's Forest Ecosystem

Some of the important eco-services provided in Penny Plant's Forest are described below. But, part of each name is missing. The missing part is at the end of each description, but you will need to unscramble it. The description will give you clues. Write the missing part of the name in the blanks provided.

1. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ FACTORY

   All the plants in Penny's Forest work together to clean the air. Tiny openings (stomates) on the bottom of each leaf filter the air. Natural ecosystems also have plant species that help keep water clean. [RIA ANCLINEG]

2. FOREST _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

   Plants and some animals serve as food for the residents. For example, caterpillars munch leaves and birds gulp down caterpillars. Squirrels gather acorns and foxes hunt plant-eating rabbits. [SRRETTAUNA]

3. _ _ _ _ _ _ REGULATOR

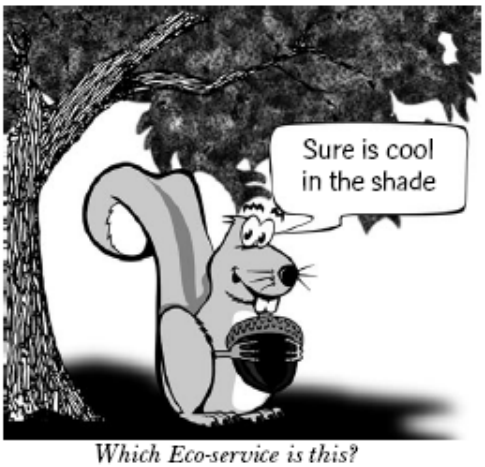
   The trees and other plants give off oxygen that animals (including people) need to survive. Meanwhile, animals do their part by giving off the carbon dioxide (CO_2) that plants need. Plants can even take in some of the excess CO_2 produced by people burning fossil fuels. [NOGXEY]

4. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ PROTECTION

   The trees, grasses, and broad-leafed plants like Penny help to hold soil in place. They protect soil from erosion, that is, being blown off by winds or washed away by rain. [EIOSNRO]

5. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ CENTER

   Soil insects, bacteria, and fungi work to recycle the bodies of dead plants and animals into food-rich new topsoil. Imagine the piles of dead bodies on the forest floor if not for this important service! [LYGRNECCI]



Which Eco-service is this?

6. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ CONTROL

   The trees provide the shade needed by the other plants and animals. In the heat of summer, it is often 20 degrees cooler under a tree than in the sun! Trees and plants also help save moisture. [LETACMI]

7. _ _ _ _ _ CONTROL

   Crowds of plant eaters are not good! So, many animals help to keep down their numbers. Birds gobble up plant-eating insects. Owls, foxes, and others make sure there are not too many seed-eating mice. [DROWC]