Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block:\_\_\_\_\_

# Station 3 Worksheet: The Western Cordillera & The Intermountain Region

Examine the two photographs carefully and list as many observations as you can: Questions to ask yourself when looking at the picture: ***1) What’s in the picture? 2) What’s in the background? 3) What’s in the foreground? 4) Where do you think this is located? 5) What kind of characteristics or features do you see? 6) What type of vegetation are there? Any adaptations?***

**This region is like a desert region. The photo contains a sand dune and the 2nd photo contains mini cacti plants. However, when you look closely at the photograph, in the foreground there is a random evergreen tree sticking out at the bottom right hand corner. In the background, there’s actually ridges and other river-like landscapes. (The point of this exercise is to show an intermountain region that can “look” like a desert but is actually not.) This is a rainshadow effect caused by orographic precipitation.**

Read the section about orographic precipitation and using the figure as a guide, draw and label a diagram with the steps on how rain occurs in the region.

What is the definition of a rainshadow?

**Dry winds coming down the leeward side of a mountain that causes a dry area to develop.**

Describe the topography, climate, and vegetation of the Western Cordillera:

1. Topography:

**New mountains that are not yet worn down by erosion.**

**Many different mountain ranges.**

1. Climate:

**Maritime climate—Lots of precipitation and mild temperatures.**

**Winters usually above freezing.**

**Summers are cooler.**

1. Vegetation:

**Windward side of mountains= evergreen trees**

**High on top of mountains= tundra like plants**

**Leeward side of mountains= cacti**

Describe the topography, climate, and vegetation of the Intermountain Region:

1. Topography:

**Rivers flow into brackish lakes (salty lakes).**

**High plateaus and isolated mountains.**

**Deserts.**

1. Climate:

**Southern part=winters are short and warm with little rain.**

**Northern part=moist winters and hot dry summers, little rain also.**

1. Vegetation:

**Sparse grassland**

**High areas= thin pine forest**