Chapter 4

1. Define Biodiversity. Explain the differences in species diversity, ecosystem diversity, genetic diversity and functional diversity
2. Why are insects important to us?
3. Explain how evolution by natural selection works through mutations and adaptations.
4. How did humans become the dominant species?
5. Explain how our future will not include an adaptation of human skin to UV radiation.
6. How have long term climate changes and catastrophic events have a major effect on biological evolution? Describe conditions on earth that favor the development of life as we know it.
7. Explain how a species plays a vital role in an ecosystem. Give an example of a generalist, specialist.
8. Why are amphibians declining? How are they an indicator species?
9. What is the ecological role the American Alligator plays in the marsh and swamp habitats of southeastern USA?  Why is it a keystone species?