

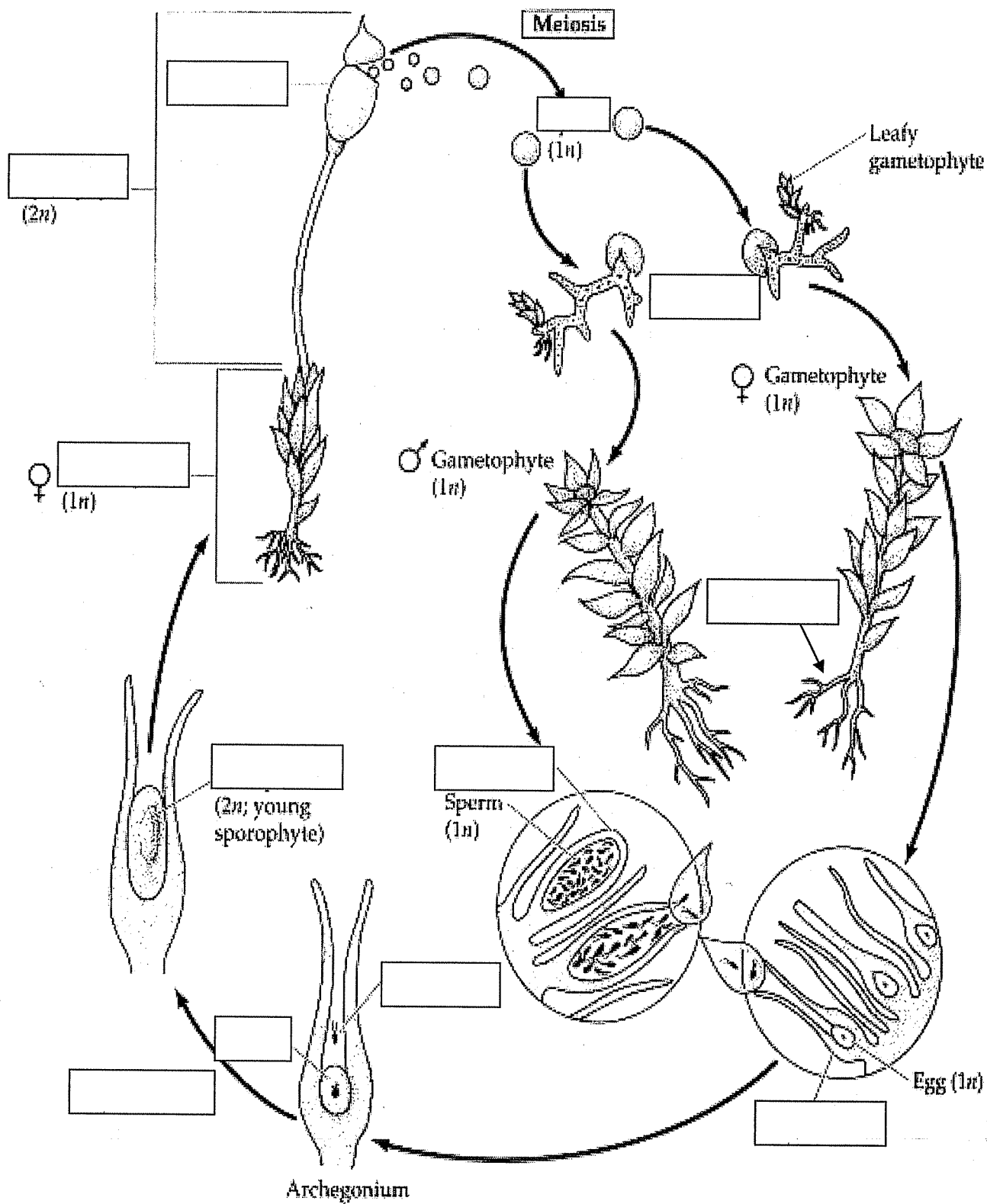
Name: _____

Life Cycle of a Moss

Directions:

Read the following paragraph and label all the bolded words on the diagram of the Life Cycle of a Moss on the back of this sheet. The labels that are present will help you label the rest.

When a moss spore lands in a moist place, it germinates and grows into a mass of tangled green filaments called a **protonemia**. As the protonemia grows, it forms **rhizoids** that grow into the ground and shoots that grow into the air. These shoots grow into the familiar green moss plants, which are the **gametophyte** stage of its life cycle. Gametes are formed in reproductive structures at the tips of the gametophytes. **Sperm** with whiplike tails are produced in the **antheridium**, and **egg cells** are produced in **archegonium**. Once sperm are released and reach egg cells, **fertilization** produces a **diploid zygote**. This zygote is the beginning of the **sporophyte** stage of the life cycle. It grows directly out of the body of the gametophyte and actually depends on it for water and nutrients. The mature sporophyte is a long stalk ending in a **capsule** that looks like a saltshaker. Inside the capsule, **haploid spores** are produced by meiosis. When the capsule ripens, it opens and haploid spores are scattered to the wind to start the cycle again.



Name: Key

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When a moss spore lands in a moist place, it germinates and grows into a mass of tangled green filaments called a **protonemia**. As the protonemia grows, it forms **rhizoids** that grow into the ground and shoots that grow into the air. These shoots grow into the familiar green moss plants, which are the **gametophyte** stage of its life cycle. Gametes are formed in reproductive structures at the tips of the gametophytes. **Sperm** with whiplike tails are produced in the **antheridium**, and **egg cells** are produced in **archegonium**. Once sperm are released and reach egg cells, **fertilization** produces a **diploid zygote**. This zygote is the beginning of the **sporophyte** stage of the life cycle. It grows directly out of the body of the gametophyte and actually depends on it for water and nutrients. The mature sporophyte is a long stalk ending in a **capsule** that looks like a saltshaker. Inside the capsule, **haploid spores** are produced by meiosis. When the capsule ripens, it opens and haploid spores are scattered to the wind to start the cycle again.

