

FOURTH GRADE

Life Science: all living things share similar characteristics but they also have differences that can be described and classified. There is interaction and interdependence between and among living and nonliving components of systems.

ACTIVITY #1- Parts of an Ecosystem Matching Game

Objective: to understand what an ecosystem is, and to understand what things make up an ecosystem.

Supplies: scissors, writing utensil, tape/glue, construction paper/colored paper/poster

Procedure:

1. Start out by cutting out the squares below.
2. First, look at the ecosystem card. Try to match the ecosystem card with the correct definition.
 - a. Once matched, tape the ecosystem card next to the definition at the TOP of your construction paper/colored paper/poster
 - b. **Explain** that the rest of the cards are all parts of an ecosystem. You will be matching the name with the definition and taping it below the ecosystem cards.
3. Now go through each of the cards and match them with the correct definition. You will end up with a page of matching cards and definitions.
4. **Explain** that parts of an ecosystem all work together to make life happen in that area. To illustrate this draw an arrow from each card, to each card. The end result will be a crazy jumble of arrows that illustrates how complex ecosystems are.

Extension: Under each card, write/draw an example of each part of an ecosystem.

Answer Key:

Ecosystem-Card 1, Organism- Card 2, Biotic factors- Card 3, Abiotic factors- Card 4, Community- Card 5, Interaction- Card 6

<u>ECOSYSTEM</u>	<u>ORGANISM</u>
<u>BIOTIC FACTORS</u>	<u>COMMUNITY</u>
<u>ABIOTIC FACTORS/</u> <u>PHYSICAL</u> <u>ENVIRONMENT</u>	<u>INTERACTION</u>

1 A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.	4 The <u>non-living</u> parts of an ecosystem
2 A single plant, animal, or single-celled life form.	5 A group of organisms
3 The <u>living</u> parts of an ecosystem	6 Working with or against another organism/part.

ACTIVITY #2: Draw Your Own Ecosystem

Objective: to understand the relationships an animal near your home has with its environment.

Supplies: paper and writing utensils

Procedure:

1. Go outside and look for an animal that you can see. Watch that animal for a few minutes and write down everything it interacts with (or draw what it interacts with).
2. Then, think of other things that animal interacts with that you may have not seen. Some guiding questions for this could be:
 - a. What is the animal eating?
 - b. What is the animal standing on?
 - c. Is the animal interacting with another living thing?
 - d. Is the animal interacting with something that isn't living?
 - e. Are you interacting with the animal in any way? If so, how?
3. Now it is time to draw your ecosystem! Do this by drawing a picture including all of those parts you listed before. While doing this, think of the linkages and interactions between each part.
 - a. Example: A robin eats a worm, the worm is found in the soil, which helps the grass grow. The robin flies into a tree, and the tree is getting energy from the sun...
 - b. Eventually, your child should recognize that each part in the ecosystem is interacting with another in some way. You can make this drawing as simple or as complex as you want! Get creative!