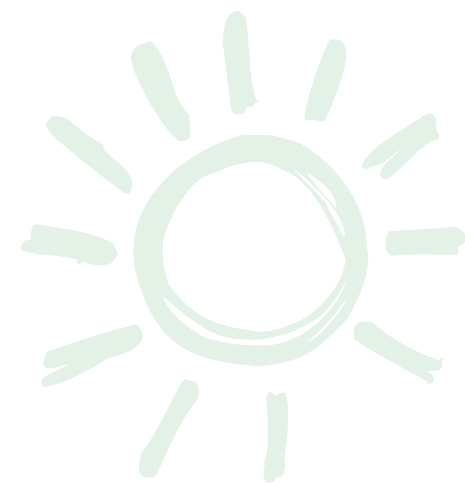




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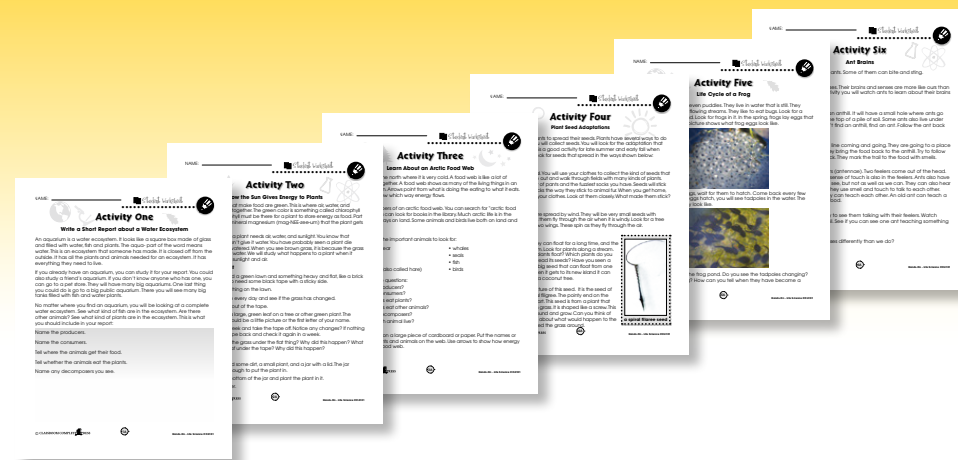
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## Ecosystems

1. Circle **T** if the sentence is True or **F** if it is False.

- T F** a) A field is an ecosystem.  
**T F** b) Living things need each other.  
**T F** c) An animal is a fossil as soon as it dies.  
**T F** d) A system is a group of things that work together.  
**T F** e) Some things that live together help each other.

2. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is the most right.

a) What is NOT an ecosystem?

- A A rock.  
 B A pond.  
 C A forest.  
 D An ocean.

b) What is a fossil?

- A An arrowhead.  
 B Dead leaves fallen from a tree.  
 C A layer of rock under the ground.  
 D What's left of a dead animal turned to stone.

c) The Earth is getting \_\_\_\_\_.

- A colder  
 B drier  
 C warmer  
 D wetter



## Ecosystems

**H**ave you ever seen an **ecosystem**? Well, guess what—you are part of one! First, let's look at the word: The **eco** part means nature or natural. The **system** part means a group of things that work together. So an ecosystem is a group of things in nature that work together.

The things that make up an ecosystem are plants, animals, and all the things they need to live. They need the sun. They need water. They need each other. An ecosystem is sort of like a family. Everyone needs everyone else. The difference is that members of an ecosystem will eat each other.

A forest can be an ecosystem. A pond can be an ecosystem. It is a place where plants and animals live. It has everything they need. They don't have to go outside of the ecosystem to get things. The picture on the right shows part of a very simple forest ecosystem. It shows deer, plants and trees. The plants use the sun to make food. The deer eat the plants.



Most ecosystems have many plants and animals. Think of everything that lives in a forest. There are trees, grass, bugs, mice, birds, wild cats, and many more. Everything is needed. Bugs and mice eat grass. Birds eat bugs. Wild cats and some birds eat mice. If you take one part away, everything changes. If the grass died, the bugs and mice would have nothing to eat. If the mice died, the wild cats would have nothing to eat.

What is a plant and an animal that lives in a pond?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Ecosystems

1. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is the most right.

a) Plants and animals work together. What is this called?

- A An ecosystem.  
 B A family.  
 C A fossil.  
 D A herd.

b) There were ecosystems that lived on Earth a very long time ago. How can we learn about them?

- A By looking at fossils.  
 B By talking to old people.  
 C By reading history books.  
 D By looking at animals.

c) Which would be part of an ocean?

- A deer  
 B sand  
 C bees  
 D pine trees

2. Use the words below to finish each sentence. Use each word once.

water plants rock sun animals

- a) Fossils are what's left of animals that turned into \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Plants get energy from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Plants need sun, air, and \_\_\_\_\_ to make food.
- d) The living things in a place are either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.



## Ecosystems



3. Answer the questions in full sentences.

a) What is an ecosystem?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) A fossil of a fish was found in a dry place. What does this show about why ecosystems change?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Extension & Application

4. Study an ecosystem near your home or your school. Draw a picture of your ecosystem in the graphic organizer on page 12. Look for living things.

What are plants and what are animals?

Look for things that the plants and animals need to live.

List the things you found in the graphic organizer.

- Name three animals.
- Name three plants.
- Name three things that are not alive in the ecosystem.

Why do the living things need these?



## Build a Terrarium

This experiment can be done in pairs, groups or alone. Study an ecosystem that you make yourself.

In this activity you will make a complete ecosystem inside a big jar. A small ecosystem in a jar is called a terrarium.

This is what you will need:

- a big jar you can see through
- dirt
- plants
- worms
- bugs
- sticks and stones

This is what you do:

1. Clean the jar.
2. Find dirt with worms in it.
3. Put a layer of dirt and worms in the bottom of the jar. The dirt should be loose, not packed. It should be a little wet, but not muddy.
4. Look for bugs near where you got the dirt. Try to find bugs that are eating plants.
5. Put the bugs and leaves of the plants in the jar.
6. Plant some plants in the dirt.
7. Put some nice stones and sticks in the jar to make it look interesting.
8. Put a small dish of water in the jar.

The jar can be covered or not. If it is covered, watch to see that everything is living okay. Make sure there are small holes in your covering to let in fresh air. If it is closed, it will be a complete ecosystem all to itself. Don't put the jar in the Sun, but let it have light. Watch to see that it is not too wet or too dry. See if the plants, bugs, and worms look healthy.

Write about what you see each day. Name the producers, the consumers, and the decomposers. Which things you put in the jar do the plants and animals need to stay alive?



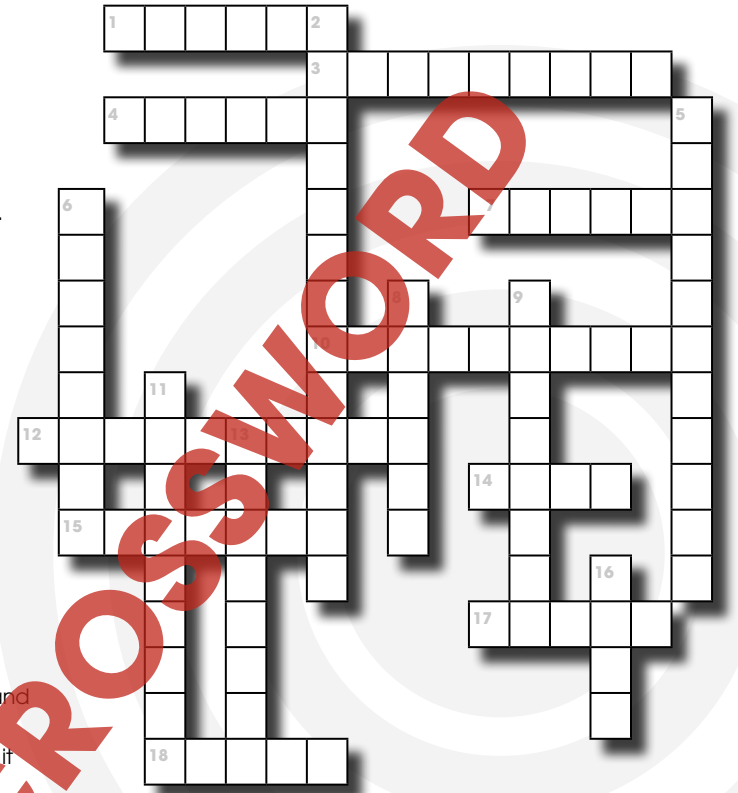
## Crossword Puzzle!

### Across

1. Bees spread it from plant to plant.
3. A group of plants and animals working and living together.
4. The stuff things are made of.
7. What you become when you turn to stone.
10. Your nose is one.
12. It brings nutrients back to the ground.
14. What is inside a chrysalis.
15. Future frog.
17. Something you can pass on to your babies.
18. It sends messages to and from your brain.

### Down

2. It is made up of your brain and your nerves.
5. Plants need it, and bees do it for them.
6. Decomposers take it back to the ground.
8. Plants get it from the Sun.
9. It eats producers.
11. Where energy is passed from consumer to producer.
13. It stores food energy.
16. Egg, tadpole, frog, egg. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ cycle of a frog.



### Word List

consumer	life	pollen
decomposer	matter	producer
ecosystem	nerve	pupa
energy	nervous system	sense organ
food chain	nutrient	tadpole
fossil	pollination	trait



## Comprehension Quiz

### Part A

Circle **T** if the sentence is TRUE or **F** if it is FALSE.

- 1) Fossils can be brought back to life.
- 2) People are part of an ecosystem.
- 3) Almost all ecosystems get their energy from the Sun.
- 4) Producers eat consumers.
- 5) A survival trait is an adaptation that helps a plant or animal live.
- 6) A pupa is a stage in the life cycle of a frog.
- 7) The tongue is a sense organ.

### Part B

Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is the most right.

a) Which tells what an ecosystem is?

- A A part of the body that helps an animal live.
- B An animal that gives back nutrients to the ground.
- C What's left of a plant that has turned to stone.
- D A group of plants and animals that live together.

b) A boy is walking in the woods and sees a bear. He decides to run away from it. To which body part does his brain send a message?

- A bones
- B eyes
- C muscles
- D skin

SUBTOTAL: /9

## Pond Ecosystem





# Ecosystems

1. Put a check mark (✓) next to the answer that is the most right.

a) Plants and animals work together. What is this called?

- A An ecosystem.
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- C A fossil.
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c) Which would be part of an ocean?

- A deer
- B sand
- C bees
- D pine trees

2. Use the words below to finish each sentence. Use each word once.

water    plants    rock    sun    animals

- a) Fossils are what's left of animals that turned into \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Plants get energy from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Plants need sun, air, and \_\_\_\_\_ to make food.
- d) The living things in a place are either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

1.

a)  A

b)  A

c)  B

3.

a) A group of plants and animals that live on each other.

b) Answers will vary, but may include: They change when weather changes. The fish died when the weather was wet and cool. Then it changed to dry and hot.

2.

- a) rock
- b) Sun
- c) water
- d) plants, animals

10

4.

Answers will vary, but may include:  
Plants - Grass, Tree, Fern.  
Animals - Rabbit, Robin, Grasshopper.  
Things Plants and Animals Need - Sunlight, Water, Dirt.

11

