



Lesson Plan: What are Ecosystems?

Grade Level: 3

Subject: Life Science

Duration: 45–60 min

NGSS 3-LS4-3: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- **Identify** and describe the components of an ecosystem, including abiotic and biotic factors
- **Differentiate** between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- **Explain** the functions of ecosystems, such as energy flow and nutrient cycling



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- **Environment:** Everything around an organism; it is made up of living and nonliving things in an area.

Materials Needed: (all links are included in this PDF)

- What are Ecosystems? Practice Worksheet (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-0.pdf>)



- What are Ecosystems? Vocabulary Set 1
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-1.pdf>)
- What are Ecosystems? Vocabulary Set 2
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-3.pdf>)

Lesson Procedure

Step 1: Introduction (10 minutes)

- Ask students: "If you look outside, what living and non-living things do you see interacting with each other?"
- Explain that an ecosystem is a community of living organisms interacting with their physical environment.



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- Draw a simple food chain on the board and ask the class to identify the producer and consumer.

Step 4: Independent Practice (15 minutes)

- Distribute "What are Ecosystems? Vocabulary Set 2" for students to complete individually.
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-3.pdf>)
- Instruct students to independently match terms such as producer, consumer, and decomposer to check their understanding.



- Circulate the room to provide support and ensure students are correctly identifying living and nonliving things.

Step 5: Assessment (10 minutes)

- Administer the "What are Ecosystems? Practice Worksheet" as a formal assessment of the lesson's concepts. (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-0.pdf>)
- Evaluate student responses on multiple-choice questions concerning ecosystems, producers, and decomposers.
- Review the correct answers with the class to reinforce the material before concluding the lesson.

Differentiation Strategies



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Complete List of Available Resources:

- What are Ecosystems? (Topic Page) (<https://newpathworksheets.com/science/grade-3/what-are-ecosystems-2060>)
- What are Ecosystems? Practice Worksheet (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-0.pdf>)



- What are Ecosystems? Practice Worksheet
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-1.pdf>)
- What are Ecosystems? Vocabulary Set 1
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-1.pdf>)
- What are Ecosystems? Vocabulary Set 1
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-2.pdf>)
- What are Ecosystems? Vocabulary Set 2
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-3.pdf>)
- What are Ecosystems? Vocabulary Set 2
(<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-what-are-ecosystems-2060-4.pdf>)



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NEW PATH LEARNING



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1

Why are **producers** important in an ecosystem?

- A They consume food.
- B They produce food.
- C They decompose food.
- D They eat plants.



2

What is the **main source of energy** in an ecosystem?

- A plants
- B animals
- C frogs
- D the Sun



3

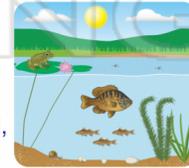
Match the term with the correct definition.

- ecosystem A. a place where an organism lives; it provides food, water and shelter
- habitat B. the role that an organism has in an ecosystem
- population C. a community of all living organisms in an area

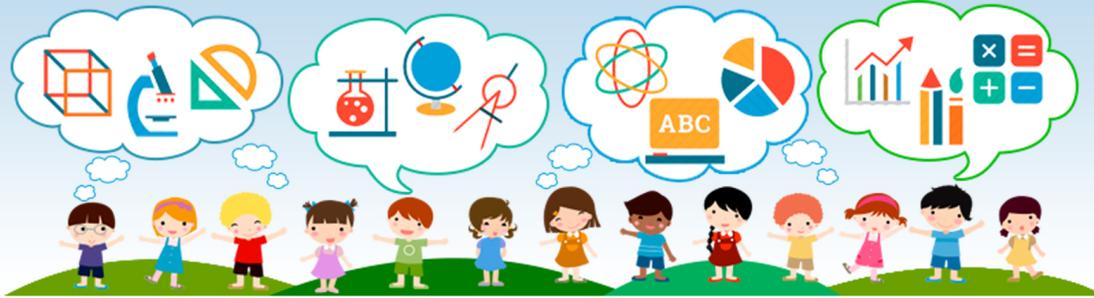
4

What are three things that make up a **pond ecosystem**?

- A saltwater, seaweed, sharks



5



PREVIEW

7

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D a bird



D birds



9

What do **sand, water** and **air** all have in common?

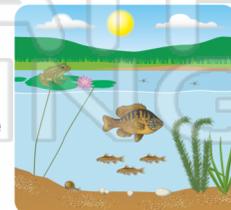
- A They are living parts of an ecosystem.
- B They are nonliving parts of an ecosystem.
- C They are a community.
- D They are a niche.



10

A **habitat** can be _____.

- A a swamp
- B a small pond
- C a puddle
- D all of the above





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1 Why are **producers** important in an ecosystem?

A They consume food.
B They produce food.
C They decompose food.
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(B)

2 What is the **main source of energy** in an ecosystem?

A plants
B animals
C frogs
D the Sun



(D)

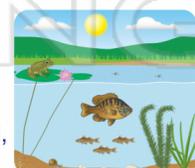
3 Match the term with the correct definition.

ecosystem **A.** a place where an organism lives; it provides food, water and shelter
 habitat **B.** the role that an organism has in an ecosystem
 population **C.** a community of all living organisms in an area

(C)

4 What are three things that make up a **pond ecosystem**?

A saltwater, seaweed, sharks
B water, rocks, and plants
C water, fish, and plants
D water, rocks, and fish



(D)

5



(B)

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6 **D** a bird



7 **D** birds



9 What do **sand, water** and **air** all have in common?

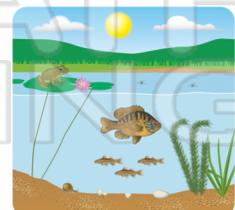
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(B)

10 A **habitat** can be _____.

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(D)



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Community

Habitat

Environment

Desert

Wetland

Niche

Population

Ecosystem

1. - a community of all living and nonliving things in an environment that work together



2. - everything around an organism; it is made up of living and nonliving things in an area



3.



4.

5.

same

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6.



7.

- a very dry, sunny place, with sandy soil, and little rain



8.

- land that is covered with water most of the year; kinds of wetlands include marshes, swamps and bogs





What are Ecosystems?

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Community

Habitat

Environment

Desert

Wetland

Niche

Population

Ecosystem

1. **Ecosystem** - a community of all living and nonliving things in an environment that work together



2. **Environment** - everything around an organism; it is made up of living and nonliving things in an area



3. **Habitat**



4. **Community**

5. **Population**

same j

6. **Niche**

PREVIEW

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7. **Desert** - a very dry, sunny place, with sandy soil, and little rain



8. **Wetland** - land that is covered with water most of the year; kinds of wetlands include marshes, swamps and bogs





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Describe

Decomposer

Carbon dioxide

Living thing

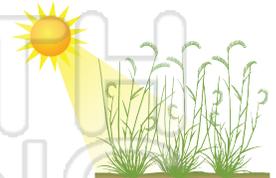
Consumer

Climate

Producer

Nonliving thing

1. _____ - a living thing that makes its own food using light energy from the Sun



2. _____ - an organism that get its energy by eating other organisms



3. dead p
bacter



4. _____

5. includ

6. the air

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7. _____ - the weather of a location over a long period of time



8. _____ - to tell or write about an object or thing using details



- green
- sharp spines
- round
- brown
- furry
- eats nuts



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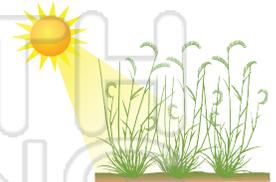
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5. No
includ

PREVIEW

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6. Can
air by

7. Climate - the weather of a location over a long period of time



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• green
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