



PHOTO ECOLOGY

This lesson was designed by a local Grade 7 teacher to help her students understand the vocabulary and key curricular concepts relating to the science unit on ecosystems. This activity is to be performed near the end of the unit to help visualize important concepts.

THE ACTIVITY

1. Have students to bring a photo-taking device to a field trip at FortWhyte or another outdoor location.
2. Give students a list of vocabulary words related to the ecosystems unit (i.e.: primary consumer, producer, decomposer, etc.) and ask them to take pictures of things that represent at least four vocabulary words. (see page 2-3 for Student Worksheet)
3. Once back in the classroom, have students use their photos to explain a curricular concept from the unit, like succession or ecological pyramids.
4. Have students present their concept to the class.

Applications: Science.

To take this activity one step further, you can extend this activity into a technology project by asking students to use their photos to teach a different audience about a specific concept in the unit. Depending on the technology available, students can create a PowerPoint, a comic strip using Comic Life, or a website.

If you are interested in sharing your project's results, or would like more ideas on teaching outside at your school, please contact FortWhyte Alive by email at education@fortwhyte.org.





STUDENT WORKSHEET

Fort Whyte Comic

During our field trip, you are responsible for taking pictures that relate to our ecosystems unit. You will use these photos to create a comic on Comic Life that teaches others about ecosystems.

Your comic must teach two topics studied so far this year. It should also include at least four vocabulary words. Possible topics include:

- Ecological Succession
- Food chains/Food webs
- Human effect on ecosystem
- Photosynthesis
- Scavengers and Decomposers
- Producers
- Consumers
- Protecting ecosystems
- Abiotic and biotic parts of an ecosystem
- and others...



Marking Rubric

0-1	2	3	4	5
No vocabulary words are mentioned.	One or two vocabulary words are mentioned.	Three or four vocabulary words are mentioned, but could be used more effectively.	Three vocabulary words are included and used effectively.	Four vocabulary words are included and used effectively.
Comic barely mentions ecosystem topics.	Comic touches on one ecosystem topic, but more detail is necessary.	Comic touches on two ecosystem topics, but could go into more detail.	Comic teaches two ecosystems topics	Comic teaches two ecosystems topics clearly and with insight.
Visuals do not relate to ecosystems.	Visuals do not relate to ecosystems, with one or two exceptions.	Visuals relate to ecosystems, but a clearer connection to specific topics is necessary.	Visuals support the ecosystems topics.	Visuals support and enhance the ecosystems topics.





Ecosystem Photos	Ecosystem Photos	Ecosystem Photos
<p>Check to see if you have found the following. It is okay to have more than one picture of a concept!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Producer- Primary consumer- Secondary consumer- Tertiary consumer- Decomposer- Scavenger- Different types of ecosystems- Animal habitat- Abiotic components- Biotic Components- Something that demonstrates a step of ecological succession- Something that shows how succession has been stopped- Something that shows how succession has restarted- Something relating to photosynthesis- The impact of people on ecosystems- A new thing you learned at Fort Whyte Alive- A strange or unique thing you saw at Fort Whyte Alive-How many live animals did you photograph?	<p>Check to see if you have found the following. It is okay to have more than one picture of a concept!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Producer- Primary consumer- Secondary consumer- Tertiary consumer- Decomposer- Scavenger- Different types of ecosystems- Animal habitat- Abiotic components- Biotic Components- Something that demonstrates a step of ecological succession- Something that shows how succession has been stopped- Something that shows how succession has restarted- Something relating to photosynthesis- The impact of people on ecosystems- A new thing you learned at Fort Whyte Alive- A strange or unique thing you saw at Fort Whyte Alive- How many live animals did you photograph?	<p>Check to see if you have found the following. It is okay to have more than one picture of a concept!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Producer- Primary consumer- Secondary consumer- Tertiary consumer- Decomposer- Scavenger- Different types of ecosystems- Animal habitat- Abiotic components- Biotic Components- Something that demonstrates a step of ecological succession- Something that shows how succession has been stopped- Something that shows how succession has restarted- Something relating to photosynthesis- The impact of people on ecosystems- A new thing you learned at Fort Whyte Alive- A strange or unique thing you saw at Fort Whyte Alive-How many live animals did you photograph?

