



What's in Your Ecosystem?

GRADE 7

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Have students learn the terminology within the ecosystem unit, then send them outside! This activity offers a method of giving your students the challenge of connecting the curriculum concepts with what they observe in nature.

LESSON

This activity takes students outdoors to identify ecosystem terminology in a local ecosystem.

1. Ensure students are already familiar with the terms producer, consumer, decomposer, and the difference between biotic and abiotic factors.
2. Assign an inventory of the nearby ecosystem, such as a schoolyard, garden or park for each student.
3. Have students draw an "X" on a page or divide a sheet into four equal sections, such as columns.
4. Have students record examples of producers, consumers, decomposers, and abiotic factors, on each section using words and/or sketches.
5. Pool student projects in an online slideshow or similar discussion.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

Interactions Within Ecosystems - 7-1-01, 7-1-02, 7-1-03

How do you say "**decompose**" in Cree?



Misiwanâtan (Mih-sih-wah-nah-tuhn)

6. Use this assignment to highlight commonly missed or miscategorized elements. Students will often miscategorize dead trees as abiotic factors, when they are in fact biotic.

Identification Sheets from FortWhyte:

[Plant and Tree ID Sheet](#)

[Bird and Waterfowl ID Sheet](#)

[Grassland Insect ID Sheet](#)

[FortWhyte Animal Tracks Key](#)

Other Identification Resources:

[Merlin Bird ID App](#)

[Field Guide to Trees of Manitoba](#)

[Prairie Plants](#)

[Ontario Wildflowers](#)

[Manitoba Weeds](#)