Instructional Plan for the Unit

The Exploring Ecosystems unit is designed for students to demonstrate an understanding of relationships among biotic and abiotic factors within terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

The Science Support document guides all content and assessments.

	Major Unit Objectives	Standards/ Competencies Correlation
1.	Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both the biotic, including communities, populations and microorganisms, and abiotic factors	SC 5-2.2
2.	Compare the characteristics of terrestrial ecosystems, including forests and grasslands, and aquatic ecosystems, including lakes, ponds, marshes, estuaries, and oceans.	SC 5-2.3
3.	Identify the roles of organisms as they interact and depend on one another through food chains and food webs, considering producers and consumers, including herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores and decomposers.	SC 5-2.4
4.	Create a food chain and food web with recognition of the roles of predators and prey within the food chain and food web.	SC 5-2.4
5.	Explain how limiting factors, including food, water, space and shelter, affect populations in ecosystems.	SC 5-2.5

Lesson One:	Introducing Ecosystems	
Main Idea	Living and nonliving things interact in ecosystems every day.	
Standard	5-2.2 Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both biotic	
	factors, including populations, to the level of microorganisms, and communities,	
	and abiotic factors.	
Objective	The student will discuss the components of an ecosystem, including all of the	
	organisms and their nonliving surrounding environment.	
Essential	What is an ecosystem? How do living organisms and nonliving things interact in	
Questions	an ecosystem?	
Resources	National Geographic Explorer: Web of Life	
Procedure	The teacher will introduce the term – ecosystem.	
	The students will generate a definition of ecosystem in their own words	
	through brainstorming. The teacher will assist by breaking the word to	
	"eco" meaning life and "system" implying organization and structure.	
	3. Each student will receive a copy of the National Geographic Explorer:	
	Web of Life.	

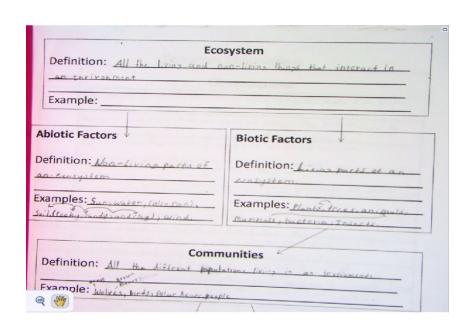


- 4. The students will picture and caption walk through the article, and discuss what has caught their interest. Allow students time to pair share and share with the class.
- 5. The teacher will conduct a group read aloud and discussion of the article "Web of Life" by Gary Miller.
- 6. The class will create a word web of vocabulary from the article, including ecosystem, food chain, food web, producer, consumer, and decomposer. *This article is the first introduction to the terms. These terms will be used as the class discusses as scientists throughout the unit. Definitions will be placed in ecosystems notebooks in later lessons.
- 7. The students will be given index cards and asked to write a living organism from the coral reef ecosystem they have just read about.
- 8. The teacher will place the students in groups of five and ask them to link themselves into a food chain using their chosen organisms.
- 9. The students will present their food chains to the other students.
- 10. The teacher concludes with an explanation of the many ecosystems we will be learning about in the unit, including forests, grasslands, lakes, ponds, estuaries, and oceans.
- 11. The teacher will create anticipation and enthusiasm by informing the students that they will be creating two ecosystems to observe in our classroom a terrarium and aquarium.

Assessment	The teacher will monitor students' participation in class discussion. The index	
	cards of organisms for the food web will be collected and assessed for	
	participation.	

Exploring Ecosystems	
Living and nonliving things interact in ecosystems every day. These living and	
non living things are defined as biotic factors and abiotic factors.	
5-2.2 Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both biotic	
factors, including populations, to the level of microorganisms, and communities,	
and abiotic factors.	
5-2.3 Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems, including	
estuaries/salt marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests, and grasslands.	
The student will define an ecosystem as all of the organisms and their nonliving	
surrounding environment that contribute to the functioning of an ecosystem.	
What is an ecosystem? How do living organisms and nonliving things interact in	
an ecosystem?	
Exploring Ecosystems student notebook	
Study Jams: Ecosystems	
The teacher will show the students the previous brainstorm about what	
is an ecosystem.	
The teacher will ask the students if they have ideas to add or change	
from the previous brainstorming.	
3. The teacher will distribute the Exploring Ecosystems student notebooks	
that will be used throughout the unit.	
4. The teacher will tell the students the goal of the day is to discover what	
an ecosystem is and what the components of an ecosystem are.	
5. The teacher will show the Study Jams video Ecosystems.	
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The state of the s	
Ecosystems	
Each ecosystem is made up of living and non-living things that interact and depend on each other for life. Some examples of ecosystems are deserts, tropical rainforests, and grasslands.	
PL PY VIDEO	
Key Vocabulary	
community ecology ecosystem population iniche habitat	
Con All Delated Inne	
6. The teacher will use the students' list to write the formal definition of an	
ecosystem as "all the living and nonliving things interacting in their environment."	
The student will write the definition on the Ecosystems vocabulary map in their notebooks.	
8. The teacher will introduce the ecosystems to be studied in the unit,	
including forests, grasslands, lakes, ponds, estuaries and oceans.	

	9. The students will use these to write an example of an ecosystem. The students may also use their prior knowledge from 4 th grade, including rivers and streams, tropical rain forests, deserts and polar regions.
Assessment	The teacher will check the notebooks for completion and accuracy.



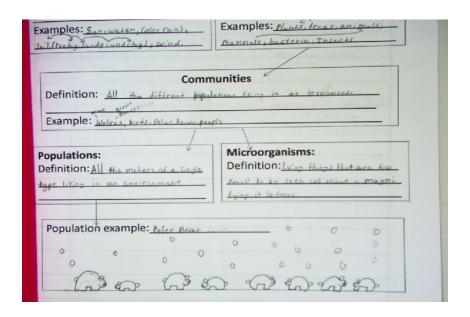
Lesson Three: Biotic factors and Abiotic factors in an ecosystem		
Main Idea	Living and nonliving things interact in ecosystems every day. These living and	
	non living things are defined as biotic factors and abiotic factors.	
Standard	5-2.2 Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both biotic	
	factors, including populations, to the level of microorganisms, and communities,	
	and abiotic factors.	
Objective	The student will define the components of an ecosystem, including the living	
	organisms as they are classified by communities and populations.	
Essential	What are the biotic factors and abiotic factors in an ecosystem?	
Questions		
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems student notebook	
	Discovery Education: The Science of Plants	
	"Ecosystems and Biomes"	
Procedure	The teacher will introduce the terms "biotic" and abiotic"	
	2. The teacher will show the Discovery Education: The Science of Plants	
	"Ecosystems and Biomes"	



- 3. The students will generate definitions for abiotic factors and biotic factors using information from the video.
- 4. The students will continue to complete the vocabulary map in their notebooks. The students will define abiotic factors as non living factors and biotic factors as living factors in an ecosystem.
- 5. The student will write examples of the factors from the ecosystem they chose in the prior lesson.
- 6. The students will share their factor examples with the class.
- 7. The students will generate definitions for communities using information from the video.
- 8. The students will define communities as a group of different populations of organisms in an ecosystem.
- 9. The students will write examples of communities from the ecosystem they chose in the prior lesson.
- 10. The students will share their community examples with the class.
- 11. The students will generate definitions for populations and microorganisms using information from the video.
- 12. The students will write an example of a population from the ecosystem they chose in the prior lesson and illustrate the population.
- 13. The students will share their population examples with the class.

Assessment

The teacher will check the vocabulary maps for accuracy and completion.



	Definition: All of the different populations living in	
	Example: pink Dolphia & Claw Filsh	
	-	\
	Populations: Definition: All the members of a	Microorganisms: Definition: Living Things That exce
	Single type of living Thing in	magnifye Otimes.
	Population example: Clown from	
	B D	1 2 2 3 3 S

Lesson Four	and Five: Biotic factors and Abiotic Factors in an Ecosystem	
Main Idea	Living and nonliving things interact in ecosystems every day. These living and non living things are defined as biotic factors and abiotic factors.	
Standard	5-2.2 Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both biotic factors, including populations, to the level of microorganisms, and communities, and abiotic factors.	
Objective	The student will define and classify the abiotic factors and biotic factors in an aquatic ecosystem and a terrestrial ecosystem.	
Essential Questions	What are the biotic factors and abiotic factors in an ecosystem?	
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems student notebook FOSS Kit materials for creating the terrariums and aquariums.	
Procedure	 The teacher will introduce the two types of ecosystems that the students will create: terrestrial and aquatic. The teacher will ask the students to define terrestrial and aquatic. After discussing, the students should conclude that terrestrial ecosystems are land ecosystems and aquatic ecosystems and water ecosystems. The students will create their terrariums in groups of four. *Groups are determined by academic ability and behavior 1" layer of rocks 4" layer of potting soil. Draw a four section grid in the soil. Plant mustard, rye, alfalfa seeds. 	

	e. Label quadrants.
	f. Illustrate terrarium.
	g. Place lid and water using eye droppers.
	h. Write first observation.
	i. Store terrariums on window sill.
	5. The students will create their aquariums in groups of four. The groups
	are the same as the terrarium groups.
	a. 5" layer of rocks
	b. Fill with water.
	6. The teacher will set the observation schedule for three times a week-
	Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
Assessment	The teacher will monitor participation within the groups while creating their
	terrarium and aquarium.

Lesson Six:	Biotic factors and Abiotic factors in an Ecosystem	
Main Idea	Living and nonliving things interact in ecosystems every day. These living and non living things are defined as biotic factors and abiotic factors.	
Standard	5-2.2 Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both biotic factors, including populations, to the level of microorganisms, and communities, and abiotic factors.	
Objective	The student will define and classify the abiotic factors and biotic factors in an aquatic ecosystem and a terrestrial ecosystem.	
Essential Questions	What are the biotic factors and abiotic factors in an ecosystem?	
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems student notebook FOSS Kit materials for creating the terrariums and aquariums.	
Procedure	 The teacher will review the two types of ecosystems that the students will create: terrestrial and aquatic. The teacher will ask the students to define terrestrial and aquatic. The students should recall terrestrial ecosystems are land ecosystems and aquatic ecosystems are water ecosystems. The students will add the biotic factors to their aquariums and terrariums. Terrarium The biotic factor of the plants should have 2" of growth. Add pill bugs and crickets. Add dead plant matter found on playground. Aquarium Plant elodea Add duckweed Add algae Add guppy The students will illustrate their terrariums and aquariums. The students will name I the biotic and abiotic factors. 	

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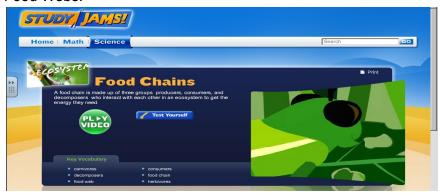


Terrarium Observations	
Date	Observations
10/26/11	The Rye is taller. The Alfalfa is about 4 cm. The mustard is bending,
16128111	Today all we saw is crikets no sishn of Pillbuss. The crikets been to like the las. One criket is sleeping. Add new little ones. Still no Pillbus. Tast crikets. I wonder if the Pillbuss dus under.
	The Bye is graving taller and taller by the second agran no pill buss. A cricet had grown. We have a fly in our terrarium:
18/3/11	Our musters has willy stem. Rye is soo tall alleges is soo short. We only saw one exicet were is the rest? I saw the altaga plan,
	The rye is almost to the top.
	Today the crikets barried them self. I bet they are sicepy. The Plants need water. The Rye is soo tall every day.
11/4/11	The corrects and rully folly (full buyer) are still mader.

Date	Observations
10/31	biggy has grown a little biger.
11/02	the water the blacky chancis almost out of
11/04	Bigy has grown biger than before
11/07	We have got two fish to day -
11/09	bigg has grown 6 inches longer
11/14	Are duck weed istgones salto
11/16	The duck weed has bine eatin by the fish.
11/18	The water is forning gray. TTIII
	alterior by som an interior

Lesson Sever	n, Eight, Nine: Food Chains and Food Webs – Who's eating who?			
Main Idea	All organisms need energy to live and grow. This energy is obtained from food.			
	The role of an organism serves in an ecosystem can be described by the way in			
	which it gets its energy.			
Standard	5-2.4 Identify the roles of organisms as they interact and depend on one another			
	through food chains and food webs in an ecosystem, considering producers and			
	consumers, including herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores, decomposers,			
	including microorganisms, termites, worms and fungi, predators and prey, and			
Objective	parasites and hosts.			
Objective	The student will identify roles of organisms in an ecosystem by recognizing the			
Facential	organization of organisms in a food chain and food web.			
Essential Questions	How does the way an organism obtains energy determine the organism's role in the food chain or food web?			
Resources				
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems student notebook			
	Study Jams – Food Chains Study Jams – Food Webs			
	SheppardSoftware.com – Animals: Food Chain			
	SheppardSoftware.com – Animals: Producer, Consumer, Decomposer			
	SheppardSoftware.com – Animals: Carnivore, Herbivore, Omnivore			
Procedure	Lesson Seven			
	1. The teacher will begin the lesson by discussing how we all get our food,			
	and how food gives us all energy.			
	The teacher will introduce the terms food chain and food web by			
	explaining how ALL organisms are linked by how they obtain their food.			

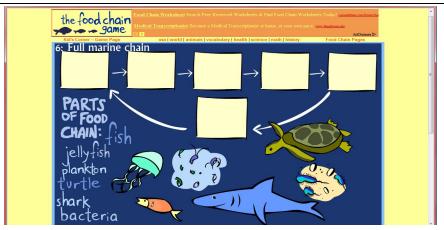
- 3. The teacher will ask the students to recall their coral reef food chains from the first lesson with the *National Geographic*.
- 4. The teacher will show Study Jams: Ecosystems Food Chains and Food Webs.





5. The teacher will use SheppardSoftware.com – Animals: Food Chains to demonstrate food chains





- 6. The students will be called to connect the food chains.
- 7. The students will create their own food chains in their Exploring Ecosystems notebooks.
- 8. The students will model their food chains in small groups for the class.

Lesson Eight

- 1. The teacher will review food chains and food webs.
- 2. The teacher will introduce the 3 roles of organisms within the food chain and food web producer, consumer and decomposer.
- 3. The teacher will use SheppardSoftware.com Animals: Producers, Consumers and Decomposers to explain the 3 roles.



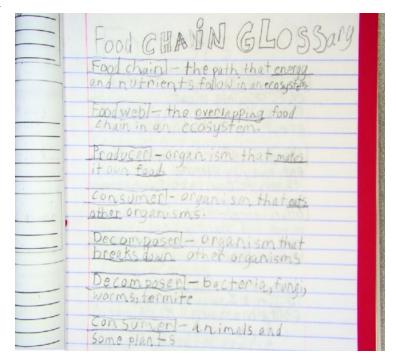
- a. Producers make their own food.
 - i. The Sun is the main source of energy for ALL ecosystems.
- b. Consumers eat other organisms.
- c. Decomposers break down dead organisms and return nutrients to the ecosystem.
- 4. The students will define the 3 roles in their Exploring Ecosystems notebooks.
- 5. The students will draw a producer, consumer and decomposer. Lesson Nine
 - 1. The teacher will ask the students to recall the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers.

- 2. The teacher will ask for examples of each and create a brainstorming three column list.
- 3. The teacher will circle the consumers column and inform the students consumers are the focus of the lesson.
- 4. The teacher will introduce 3 types of consumers herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.
- 5. The teacher will ask the students if they can define any of the three terms.
- 6. The teacher will create a brainstorming list.
- 7. The teacher will circle ideas from the students that are on the correct path.
- 8. The teacher will define the terms. The teacher will use SheppardSoftware.com – Animals: Herbivore, Carnivore and Omnivore to explain the 3 roles.
- 9. The students will play the Herbivore, Carnivore and Omnivore game.
- 10. The students will write definitions in the Exploring Ecosystems notebooks.
- 11. The students will name examples of each.

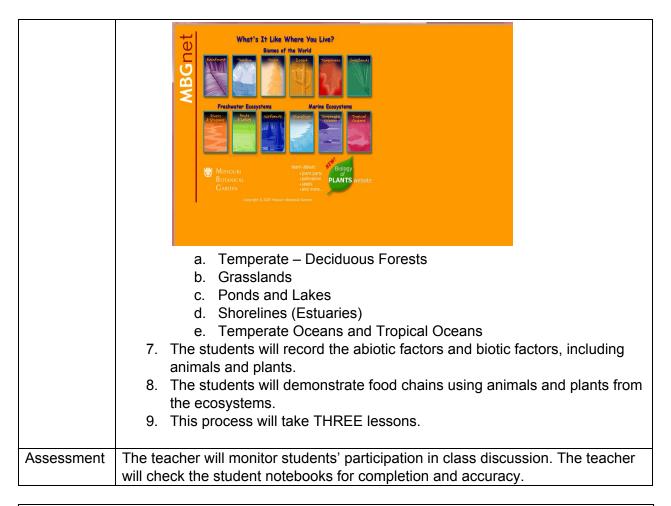


Assessment

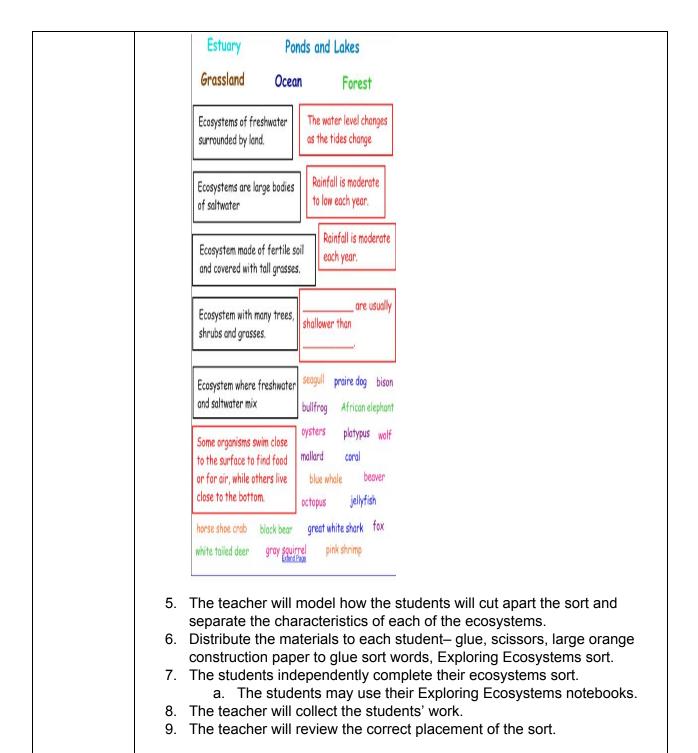
The teacher will check the student notebooks for accuracy and completion.



Lesson Ten,	Eleven, and Twelve: Exploring Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems			
Main Idea	There are different types of ecosystems with specific organisms that depend			
	upon the abiotic factors present in the environment, including forests,			
	grasslands, lakes, ponds, estuaries and oceans.			
Standard	5-2.3 Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems, including			
	estuaries/salt marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests and grasslands.			
Objective	The student will record the characteristics of forests, grasslands, lakes and			
	ponds, estuaries, and oceans, including specific abiotic and biotic factors.			
Essential	What are the characteristics of different ecosystems, including the biotic and			
Questions	abiotic factors?			
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems student notebook			
	Missouri Botanical Garden - http://www.mbgnet.net/			
Procedure	The teacher will review the term – ecosystem.			
	2. The teacher will ask the students to recall the difference between a			
	terrestrial ecosystem and an aquatic ecosystem.			
	a. References should be made to the in class ecosystem			
	observations of the terrariums and aquariums.			
	3. The teacher will ask the students to name ecosystems.			
	4. The teacher will inform the students that we will be studying through the			
	next three lessons different ecosystems and the specific abiotic and			
	biotic factors of each ecosystem, including forests, grasslands, ponds			
	and lakes, estuaries and oceans.			
	5. The teacher will guide the students in their note taking by titling the			
	ecosystem and sectioning for the biotic and abiotic factors.			
	6. The teacher will use the website Missouri Botanical Garden -			
	http://www.mbgnet.net/ to guide the research.			



Lesson Thir	teen: Exploring Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems			
Main Idea	There are different types of ecosystems with specific organisms that depend			
	upon the abiotic factors present in the environment, including forests,			
	grasslands, lakes, ponds, estuaries and oceans.			
Standard	5-2.3 Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems, including			
	estuaries/salt marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests and grasslands.			
Objective	The student will compare the characteristics of different ecosystems, including			
	forests, grasslands, lakes, ponds, estuaries and oceans.			
Essential	What are the characteristics of different ecosystems, including the biotic and			
Questions	abiotic factors?			
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems student notebook			
	Exploring Ecosystems Sort			
Procedure	The teacher will review the ecosystems, including estuaries/salt			
	marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests and grasslands.			
	2. The students will recall the different abiotic factors and biotic factors in			
	the ecosystems.			
	 a. The students should utilize their notebooks during discussion. 			
	3. The teacher will guide the students in their note taking by titling the			
	ecosystem and sectioning for the biotic and abiotic factors.			
	4. The teacher will show the students the Exploring Ecosystems Sort.			

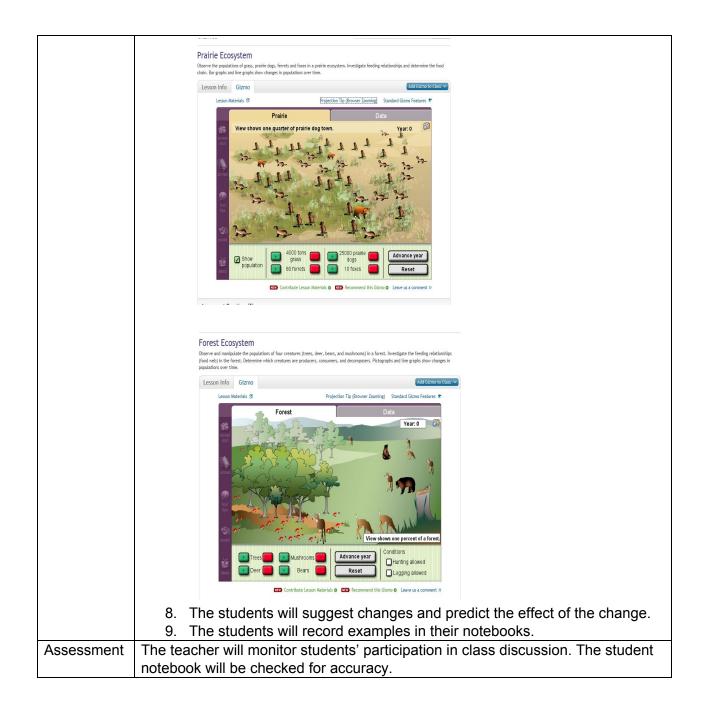


The teacher will check the students' sort for accuracy.

Assessment



Lesson Four	rteen and Fifteen: Limiting Factors in Ecosystems			
Main Idea	In ecosystems, all living things have an interdependence upon one another and on the abiotic factors. Changes and limiting of biotic and abiotic factors dramatically affect the success of the ecosystem.			
Standard	5-2.5 Explain how limiting factors, including food, water, space and shelter, affect populations in ecosystems.			
Objective	The student will explain how limiting factors affect populations in ecosystems.			
Essential Questions	How do limiting factors affect populations in ecosystems?			
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems student notebook			
	Explore Learning: Gizmos			
	Prairie Ecosystem			
	2. Forest Ecosystem			
Procedure	 The teacher will ask students to recall a food chain. A group of students will present a food chain. The teacher will ask the students to predict what would happen if one student was removed from the food chain. The students should predict that the other organisms that depend on that one for energy will need to find a new food source or die. The teacher will explain how this change in population is one of the many factors that can affect an ecosystem. The teacher will ask the students what other changes could affect an ecosystem. Examples – floods, drought, fire. The teacher will use the Explore Learning Gizmos for the Prairie Ecosystem and Forest Ecosystem to show how limiting factors affects the population. Utilize the data tables to show graphs of changes. 			

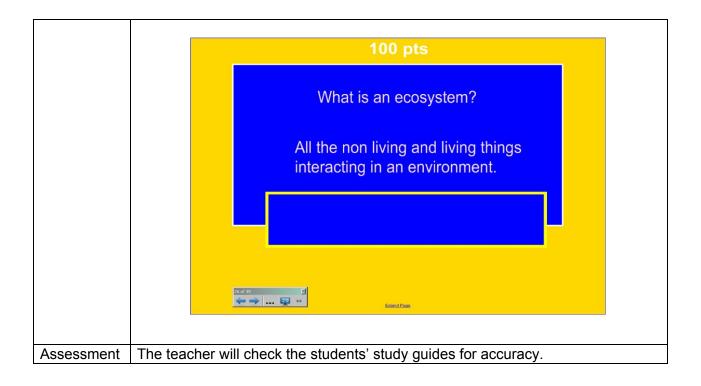


Lesson Seventeen: Exploring Ecosystems Review

Main Idea

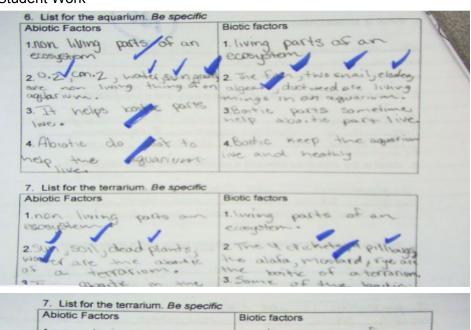
Living and nonliving things interact in ecosystems every day. These living and non living things are defined as biotic factors and abiotic factors. All organisms need energy to live and grow. This energy is obtained from food. The role of an organism serves in an ecosystem can be described by the way in which it gets its energy. An ecosystem depends on a balance of biotic and abiotic factors because the changes and limiting of these factors greatly affect the success of the ecosystem.

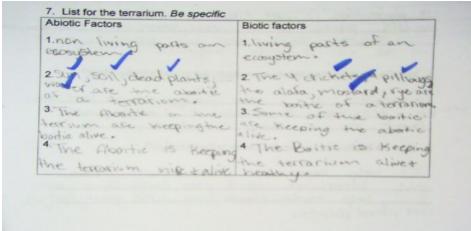
Standard	5-2.2 Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both biotic factors, including populations, to the level of microorganisms, and communities, and abiotic factors. 5-2.3 Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems, including estuaries/salt marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests and grasslands. 5-2.4 Identify the roles of organisms as they interact and depend on one another through food chains and food webs in an ecosystem, considering producers and consumers, including herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores, decomposers, including microorganisms, termites, worms and fungi, predators and prey, and parasites and hosts. 5-2.5 Explain how limiting factors, including food, water, space and shelter, affect populations in ecosystems.						
Objective	The student will demonstrate an understanding of relationships among biotic and abiotic factors within terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems by verbal and written response.						
Essential		ecosystem?		0 0			
Questions Resources	•	em? What fa			ccess of an	ecosystem	?
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems SmartBoard Jeopardy Exploring Ecosystems Student Study Guide						
	 The teacher will introduce the Exploring Ecosystems SmartBoard Jeopardy and divide the class into two teams. The teacher will give each student a study guide for the students to complete as questions are asked and answered during the review. The class will play the game. a. The teacher must be sure to repeat, explain and elaborate on answers given to the questions. 					view.	
		Mixtures and Solutions	Abiotic & Biotic Factors	Food Chains & Food Webs	Who's eating who?	Comparing Ecosystems	
		\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
		\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
		\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	
		\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	
		\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	
		3 of 32	™				
				Extend Page			



Lesson Eigh	teen: Exploring Ecosystems Summative Assessment			
Main Idea	Living and nonliving things interact in ecosystems every day. These living and non living things are defined as biotic factors and abiotic factors. All organisms need energy to live and grow. This energy is obtained from food. The role of an organism serves in an ecosystem can be described by the way in which it gets its energy. An ecosystem depends on a balance of biotic and abiotic factors because the changes and limiting of these factors greatly affect the success of the ecosystem.			
Standard	5-2.2 Summarize the composition of an ecosystem, considering both biotic factors, including populations, to the level of microorganisms, and communities, and abiotic factors. 5-2.3 Compare the characteristics of different ecosystems, including estuaries/salt marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests and grasslands. 5-2.4 Identify the roles of organisms as they interact and depend on one another through food chains and food webs in an ecosystem, considering producers and consumers, including herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores, decomposers, including microorganisms, termites, worms and fungi, predators and prey, and parasites and hosts. 5-2.5 Explain how limiting factors, including food, water, space and shelter, affect populations in ecosystems.			
Objective	The student will demonstrate an understanding of relationships among biotic and abiotic factors within terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems by verbal and written response.			
Essential	What is an ecosystem? How do living organisms and nonliving things interact in			
Questions	an ecosystem? What factors determine the success of an ecosystem?			
Resources	Exploring Ecosystems Summative Assessment			

Procedure	The teacher will administer the summative assessment
Assessment	The teacher will check the students' work for accuracy.





	- / Poot Same
1. Give an example of a decomposer	octeria
12. Give an example of a predator and prey	demunion a s
3. Draw a food chain with 4 organisms. Label the	e organism and clearly mark
which organism is "eating" the other.	T TRA
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o bird	Phy phoker
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(d.) the sun	number of the second
9. Give an example of a producer	algea
10. Give an example of a consumer	ing.
10.000 an example of a consumer	
11. Give an example of a decomposer	
11. Give all example of a decomposer	V9FM
12. Give an example of a predator and pr	rey
13. Draw a food chain with 4 organisms.	label the organism and clearly mant
which organism is "eating" the other.	eode
Acorn maus	ake 3
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800 - 60	47

