

3rd - 4th Grade: Web of Life

Essential Question:

How does energy flow from the sun through an ecosystem?

Suggestions:

- Look at numbers of animals
- Similarities (transfer of energy) and differences (types of plants, animals, numbers of each) of the various ecosystems

Supporting Questions:

- How do plants and animals interact with each other?
- How do animals grow, move, stay warm?
- How do bacteria and fungi play a role in an ecosystem?

Locations - based on tree habitats:

Vocabulary:

Compare

Investigate

Observe

Diversity - plant and animal

Change - Adapt

Habitat

Environment

Resource

Food Chain - producer, consumer (1st, 2nd, 3rd), herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, apex predator, prey

Energy

Needs – Survival

Chemical process

Photosynthesis

Decomposers - microbes, fungi, worms

Healthy ecosystem

Matter

Summary Question:

Partner Share: Pick one habitat and explain how energy flows through it.

Take Turns

5th - 6th Grade: Adaptation and Survival

Essential Question:

How are plants and animals adapted to survive in different habitats?

Suggestions:

- Look at: Shape, Color, Size of plants
- Is there a wide variety of plants in the area?
- Compare and contrast habitats after visiting a few areas
- Talking about plant adaptations as you walk, animal adaptations at stations

Supporting Questions:

- What are the characteristics of a desert, chaparral, riparian, and coastal redwood habitat?
- What are some inherited and physical adaptations that help a plant or animal survive in its environment?

Group Locations - based on habitats:

Vocabulary:

Compare Investigate Observe Diversity - plant and animal Survive Natural Selection	Change Adaptation Habitat Environment Resource Populations	Climate Weather Inherit Trait Reproduce
--	--	---

Summary Questions:

What are some adaptations that some plants and animals have in those habitats?

Pick 2 habitats. How are they the same or different in those habitats?