Ecosystem Connections

Observe the natural world around you to discover how different communities of living and non-living things interact with each other.

Directions

1. Find a spot to observe a natural environment. This could be outside in your yard, in a park, along a trail, or even from inside looking out a window.

2. Sit and observe all the living and non-living things around you. What do you see? What can you hear? Write or draw your observations below.

Materials

- Paper and writing tool

Questions

- How do humans and human-made items impact ecosystems?
- What is something that could cause an ecosystem to be out of balance?
- How do decomposers connect the components of an ecosystem?

Living Examples

- Spruce tree, squirrel, eagle
- Stream, wind, large rocks, sun

Non-Living Examples

- Water
- Air
- Sun
- Soil

Living things need non-living things to survive in their environment.
Directions continued: Food Chains

Food chains describe the order in which living things depend on each other for food. One food chain or more makes up every ecosystem.

3. Using your table, create a food chain to connect the living things to each other.

4. Next, add each of the non-living elements you observed to your food chain. Use arrows to explain each connection.