



Welcome to our ecosystem adventure! In this activity, we will explore the fascinating world of animals and plants and learn about their relationships in different environments. An ecosystem is a community of living and non-living things that interact with each other in a specific environment. It can be as small as a puddle or as large as a desert. Ecosystems are all around us, and they are essential for our survival.



Ecosystems are made up of living things like animals, plants, and microorganisms, as well as non-living things like water, air, and soil. All these components interact with each other and their environment, creating a delicate balance that is necessary for the ecosystem to function properly.

Can you identify the different ecosystems shown in these pictures? What animals and plants do you see in each ecosystem? Let's explore some examples of ecosystems and the animals and plants that live in them.

### **Forest Ecosystem**

A forest ecosystem is a community of living and non-living things that interact with each other in a forest environment. It includes trees, plants, animals, and microorganisms that live in the forest.



Some examples of animals that live in a forest ecosystem include deer, squirrels, and birds. Plants that live in a forest ecosystem include trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.

## **Sea Ecosystem**

A sea ecosystem is a community of living and non-living things that interact with each other in a sea environment. It includes fish, plants, and microorganisms that live in the sea.




Some examples of animals that live in a sea ecosystem include fish, dolphins, and whales. Plants that live in a sea ecosystem include seaweed and seagrass.

## Animal and Plant Needs

Just like us, animals and plants need food and shelter to survive. Can you match the animals and plants with their basic needs? Let's explore some examples of animal and plant needs.

### Food

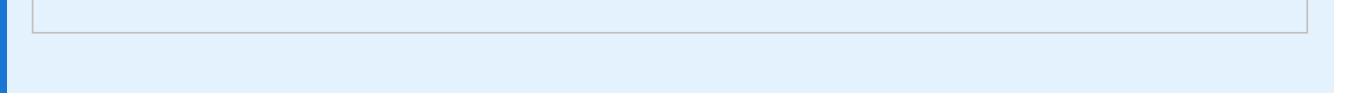
Animals need food to survive. They eat plants or other animals to get the energy they need to live. Plants make their own food from sunlight, water, and air.

 Food Image

## Shelter

Animals need shelter to protect themselves from the weather and predators. Plants need shelter to protect themselves from extreme weather conditions and herbivores.





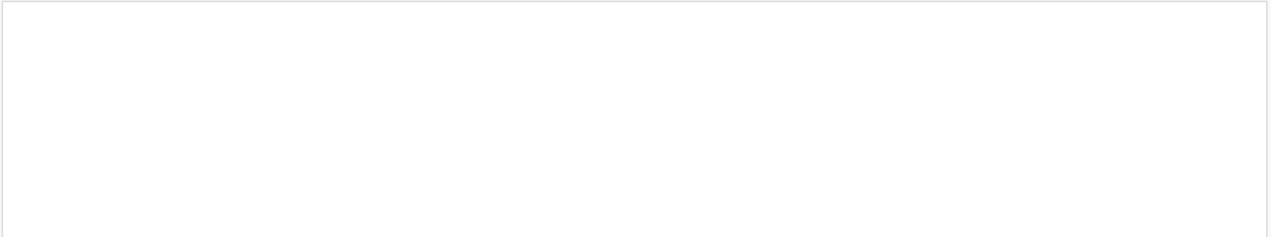
## Jigsaw Activity

Work in groups to sort these animals and plants into their respective ecosystems. Use the pictures to help you decide where each one belongs.

### Sorting Activity

Sort the following animals and plants into their respective ecosystems:

- Lion
- Tree
- Fish
- Seaweed
- Deer
- Shrub



## Creating an Ecosystem

Use these stickers to create a simple ecosystem on a piece of paper. Remember to include animals and plants that live together in the same ecosystem.

### Ecosystem Creation

Create a simple ecosystem using the following stickers:





## Extension Activity - Research

Choose an animal or plant that you learned about today and research more about it. What did you learn? Draw a picture and write a short paragraph about your findings.

### Research Task

Choose an animal or plant and research more about it. Write a short paragraph and draw a picture about your findings.



### Extension Activity - Diorama

Create a diorama of an ecosystem using a shoe box or a cardboard box. Include animals and plants that live together in the same ecosystem.

#### **Diorama Creation**

Create a diorama of an ecosystem using a shoe box or a cardboard box. Include animals and plants that live together in the same ecosystem.





## Success Criteria

Can you recognize and classify animals and plants into different ecosystems? Did you participate in the jigsaw activity and create an ecosystem? Great job!

### Success Criteria

Can you:

- Recognize and classify animals and plants into different ecosystems?
- Participate in the jigsaw activity and create an ecosystem?

### Parent/Guardian Notes

Encourage your child to learn more about animals and plants at home. Ask them to share what they learned today and provide opportunities for them to explore and discover more about ecosystems.

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## Conclusion

Today, we learned about ecosystems and the relationships between animals and plants. We had fun sorting animals and plants into ecosystems and creating our own simple ecosystem. Remember, every small action can help protect our planet and its inhabitants!

### Conclusion

What did you learn today? What can you do to help protect our planet and its inhabitants?

Now that we have learned about the different components of an ecosystem, let's explore how they interact with each other. Can you think of some ways that animals and plants interact in an ecosystem?

### Interaction Examples

Some examples of interactions between animals and plants in an ecosystem include:

- **Predation:** When one animal eats another animal.
- **Competition:** When two or more animals compete for the same resources.
- **Symbiosis:** When two or more animals or plants live together in a mutually beneficial relationship.






A food chain is a series of events where one organism is eaten by another. A food web is a network of food chains. Can you think of some examples of food chains and food webs in an ecosystem?

### Food Chain Example

Here is an example of a food chain:

- Grass is eaten by a rabbit.
- The rabbit is eaten by a fox.
- The fox is eaten by a bear.

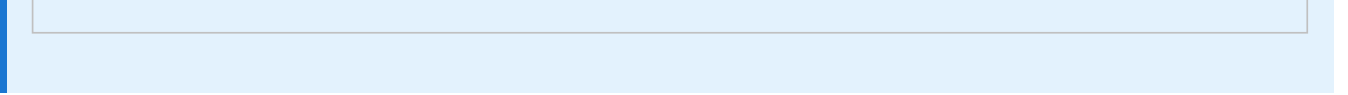
 Food Chain Image

## Food Web Example

Here is an example of a food web:

- Grass is eaten by a rabbit and a deer.
- The rabbit is eaten by a fox and a hawk.
- The deer is eaten by a bear and a mountain lion.





Ecosystems provide many services that are essential for human well-being. Can you think of some examples of ecosystem services?

### **Ecosystem Services Examples**

Some examples of ecosystem services include:

- Air and water purification.
- Soil formation and nutrient cycling.
- Climate regulation.
- Pest control and pollination.





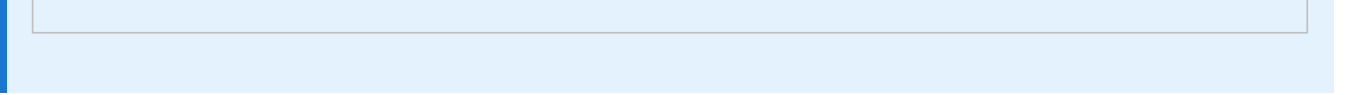
Human activities can have a significant impact on ecosystems. Can you think of some ways that humans can harm or help ecosystems?

### Human Impact Examples

Some examples of human impact on ecosystems include:

- Deforestation and habitat destruction.
- Pollution and climate change.
- Overfishing and overhunting.
- Conservation and restoration efforts.





## Sustainable Practices

There are many ways that we can help protect ecosystems and promote sustainability. Can you think of some sustainable practices that you can adopt in your daily life?

### Sustainable Practices Examples

Some examples of sustainable practices include:

- Reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- Using public transportation or carpooling.
- Using energy-efficient appliances and turning off lights.
- Eating a plant-based diet and reducing food waste.





## Conclusion and Reflection

Now that we have learned about ecosystems and sustainability, can you think of some ways that you can apply this knowledge in your daily life? What are some changes that you can make to help protect ecosystems and promote sustainability?

### Conclusion and Reflection

Take a few minutes to reflect on what you have learned. What are some key takeaways from this lesson? What are some changes that you can make to help protect ecosystems and promote sustainability?



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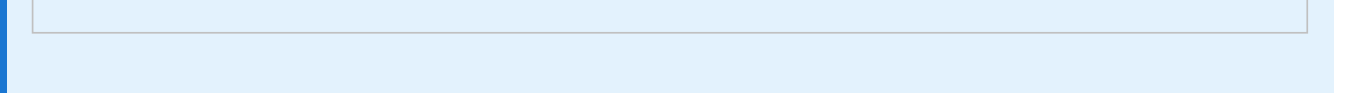
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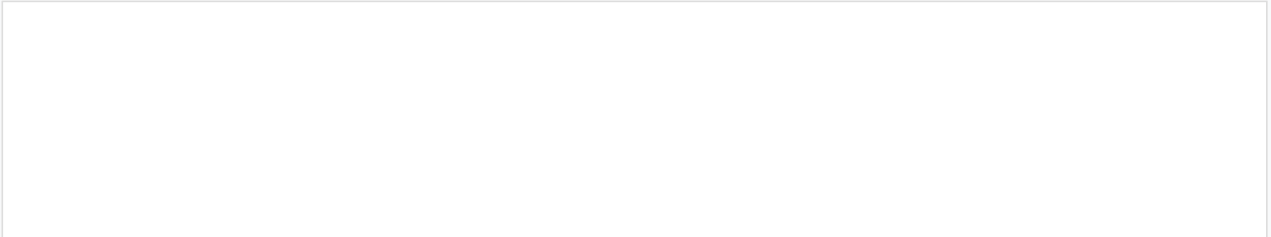
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**Congratulations on completing the Exploring Ecosystems activity!**