

# **Exploring Ecosystems**

Student Name:	
Class:	
Due Date:	

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## **Essential Understanding:**

- Definition of an ecosystem
- Importance of biodiversity
- Types of ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater, marine)
- Human impact on ecosystems

Complete these concept checks:
1. Define and give an example of:
Ecosystem
<ul> <li>Biodiversity</li> </ul>
Terrestrial ecosystem
Human impact on ecosystems
2. Draw and label a simple diagram of a food chain in a terrestrial ecosystem

### Activity 1: Exploring Local Ecosystems

<b>Task:</b> Visit a local park or natural area and observe the different species of plants and animals. Record your observations and take photos of the species you find.
<b>Objective:</b> To understand the diversity of species in a local ecosystem.
<b>Task:</b> Create a diagrammatic map of the local ecosystem you visited, including the different species and their interactions.
<b>Objective:</b> To recognize the importance of biodiversity and the interactions between species.

### Activity 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

<b>Task:</b> Research and record examples of biotic (living organisms) and abiotic (non-living factors) that affect ecosystems. Discuss how these factors interact.	
Objective: To understand the different types of factors that affect ecosystems.	
<b>Task:</b> Write a short essay on the importance of biodiversity in maintaining healthy ecosystems.	
Objective: To recognize the value of biodiversity in ecosystems.	

### Activity 3: Human Impact on Ecosystems

<b>Task:</b> Research and write about human activities that affect local ecosystems. Discuss the positive and negative impacts.	
Objective: To understand the impact of human activities on ecosystems.	
Task: Propose three ways to reduce human impact on local ecosystems.	
Objective: To think critically about ways to mitigate human impact on ecosystems.	

### **Reflection Questions**

Answer the following questions:
1. How important is biodiversity?
2. How do human activities affect ecosystems?
3. What changes would you make in your daily life to protect ecosystems?

### Guidance for Parents/Guardians

<b>Support:</b> Encourage your child to research and explore ecosystems. Help organize visits to parks or natural areas.	
Participation: Participate in activities with your child and discuss observations and results.	

### Note for the Educator

This activity is designed to adapt to the needs of students aged 11, with the goal of promoting scientific thinking and critical analysis.	
The activities can be adapted according to the needs and abilities of each student.	

### **Extension Activities (Optional)**

Choose any combination:
1. Design and explain a model of a sustainable ecosystem
2. Create a public service announcement about the importance of protecting ecosystems
3. Research and write about a current environmental issue affecting ecosystems