

## Introduction to Ecosystems

### What is an Ecosystem?

*An ecosystem is a community of living and non-living things that interact with each other in a specific environment. Ecosystems can be found in different parts of the world, including forests, deserts, oceans, and even in our own backyards.*

### Activity 1: Ecosystem Matching

*Match the following ecosystems with their descriptions:*

- Forest
- Desert
- Ocean
- Backyard

1. A ecosystem with many trees and animals
2. A ecosystem with very little water and few plants
3. A ecosystem with saltwater and many fish
4. A ecosystem with plants and animals that can be found in a residential area

## Understanding Biodiversity

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### What is Biodiversity?

*Biodiversity refers to the variety of different species of plants, animals, and microorganisms that live in an ecosystem. It is essential for the health and stability of ecosystems.*

### Activity 2: Biodiversity Sorting

*Sort the following species into their respective categories:*

- Plants
- Animals
- Microorganisms

1. Trees
2. Fish
3. Bacteria
4. Flowers
5. Dogs
6. Fungi

## Human Impact on Ecosystems

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### How Do Humans Impact Ecosystems?

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*Human activities can impact ecosystems and biodiversity. Pollution, deforestation, and climate change are some of the ways humans can harm the environment.*

### Activity 3: Human Impact

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*What are some ways humans can impact ecosystems?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Conservation and Sustainability

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### What is Conservation?

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*Conservation and sustainability are essential for protecting ecosystems and biodiversity. We can make a difference by reducing, reusing, and recycling, and by supporting conservation efforts.*

### Activity 4: Conservation

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*What are some ways we can conserve ecosystems and biodiversity?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities and Questions

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### Questions

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1. What is an ecosystem?
2. Why is biodiversity important?
3. How can humans impact ecosystems?
4. What can we do to conserve ecosystems and biodiversity?

## Glossary

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### Key Terms

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- Ecosystem: a community of living and non-living things that interact with each other in a specific environment
- Biodiversity: the variety of different species of plants, animals, and microorganisms that live in an ecosystem
- Conservation: the act of protecting and preserving ecosystems and biodiversity
- Sustainability: the ability to maintain or support a process without depleting natural resources

## Answer Key

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### Activity 1: Ecosystem Matching

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1. Forest
2. Desert
3. Ocean
4. Backyard

### Activity 2: Biodiversity Sorting

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- Plants: Trees, Flowers
- Animals: Fish, Dogs
- Microorganisms: Bacteria, Fungi

### Activity 3: Human Impact

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1. Pollution
2. Deforestation
3. Climate change

### Activity 4: Conservation

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1. Reduce, reuse, recycle
2. Support conservation efforts
3. Protect natural habitats

## ELL/ESL Support Strategies

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### Supporting ELL/ESL Students

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*For ELL/ESL students, the following strategies can be used to support their learning:*

- Provide visual aids and diagrams to illustrate complex concepts
- Use simple language and definitions
- Offer one-on-one support and feedback
- Encourage students to ask questions and participate in class discussions



## Conclusion

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*In conclusion, ecosystems and biodiversity are essential for the health and stability of our planet. By understanding the importance of ecosystems and biodiversity, and by taking action to conserve and protect them, we can make a difference and ensure a sustainable future.*

### References

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- National Geographic
- Environmental Protection Agency
- World Wildlife Fund