



Ecosystem: Teacher Tips & Helpful Hints

N.C.S.S: 5.L.2 Understand the interdependence of plants and animals with their ecosystem.

- The Student Activity Pack is broken up into three different activities:
 - **Activity 1: EcoBag** (5.L.2.2)
 - **Activity 2: A Closer Look at Ecosystems** (5.L.2.1 & 5.L.2.2)
 - **Activity 3: Impacts on Ecosystems** (5.L.2.3)

Activity 1: EcoBag

- Students will need a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable. The piece should be about the size and width of a quarter.
- The EcoBag may produce a smell when opened due to decay. Students should include this in their observations.
- The grass seed will be used in this activity and the Impacts on Ecosystems activity.
- There is an *EcoBag: Student Activity Sheet* available.

Activity 2: A Closer Look at Ecosystems

- It is ok if students are not familiar with all of the organisms on the ecosystem cards.
- In **Part 2 and Part 3** students are asked to describe the role of the organism in the ecosystem. If you have not done activity 1 or discussed decomposers, producers, or consumers students will need this information.
- There is an *A Closer Look at Ecosystems: Student Activity Sheet* available.

Activity 3: Impacts on Ecosystems

- The grass seed will take 5-7 days to grow and reach the side of the cup.
- The grass seed will be used in this activity and the Ecobag activity.
- For **Part 2** students select one thing to change in the ecosystem. Review and approve students' selections before starting the experiment.
- There is an *Impacts on Ecosystems: Student Activity Sheet* available.

N.C.S.S Clarifying Objectives

5.L.2.1 Compare the characteristics of several common ecosystems, including estuaries and salt marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, forests, and grasslands.

5.L.2.2 Classify the organisms within an ecosystem according to the function they serve: producers, consumers, or decomposers (biotic factors).

5.L.2.3 Infer the effects that may result from the interconnected relationship of plants and animals to their ecosystem