

Population Dynamics

Exploring Our School Ecosystem: Student Activity Guide

Your teacher will guide you through each step and provide information.

Part 1: Setting up Seek

1. Download the Seek app on your phone.
2. Open up the Seek app.
3. If your teacher has a classroom project:
 - a. Click the three lines in the bottom left corner.
 - b. Click on iNaturalist
 - c. Put in your classrooms information

Part 2: Using the Seek Camera

1. Click the camera at the bottom of your screen.
2. Focus on ONE organism until it gets to the species. It will say species on your screen and the ID meter will have all seven dots filled.
3. Take a picture. This is an observation.

Part 3: School Ecosystem

You will explore the local school ecosystem.

1. Predict what producers, consumers, and decomposers you might find on your school grounds.

Producer	Consumer	Decomposer

2. Following your teacher's guidance, make observations of your school grounds. **Every organism is a NEW observation.**
3. Record each of your observations below. Include the name of the organism and if it is a plant, animal, or fungi.

Name of Organism	Plant, Animal, Fungi

We will examine the classes' data to get a larger picture of our school ecosystem.

4. Look at all of your class observations. *What producers, consumers, and decomposers were found that were on your list? Why do you think some organisms on your original list were not spotted today? What organisms were not on the list?*
5. Using the photos from your class, create a food web. Make sure you label the producers, consumers, and decomposers.



Part 4: Different Biomes, Different Ecosystems

The world contains a wide variety of environments: freshwater, marine, forest, desert, grasslands, mountain, and others. You will explore three different biomes and their ecosystems.

1. Click your location.
2. Using your fingers, zoom out, and go to a location in one biome.
3. Click **Search Near Location**.
4. Observations in that area will pop up. You can click **All Species** and change categories to look at specific observations. Using the observations from this biome, build a food web. *How is this food web different from your school's food web? How is it the same? How do the abiotic factors affect the ability of organisms to grow, survive, and/or create their own food?*
5. Repeat this process with two more biomes.

Biome #1 _____

Food Web	
How is this food web different from your school's food web?	
How is it the same?	
How do the abiotic factors affect the ability of organisms to grow, survive, and/or create their own food?	

Biome #2 _____

Food Web	
How is this food web different from your school's food web?	
How is it the same?	
How do the abiotic factors affect the ability of organisms to grow, survive, and/or create their own food?	

Biome #3 _____

Food Web	
How is this food web different from your school's food web?	
How is it the same?	
How do the abiotic factors affect the ability of organisms to grow, survive, and/or create their own food?	