Ecosystem: Teacher Tips & Helpful Hints

N.C.S.S: LS.5.2 Understand the interdependence of plants and animals within their ecosystem.

- The Student Activity Pack is broken up into three different activities:
    - **Activity 1: EcoBag** (LS.5.2.2 & ESS.5.1.4)
    - **Activity 2: A Closer Look at Ecosystems** (LS.5.2.1 & LS.5.2.2)
    - **Activity 3: Impacts on Ecosystems** (LS.5.2.3)

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

- LS.5.2.1 Engage in argument from evidence to compare the characteristics of several common ecosystems (including estuaries and salt marshes, oceans, lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, forests, and grasslands) in terms of their ability to support a variety of populations.
- LS.5.2.2 Use models to classify organisms within an ecosystem according to the function they serve: producers, consumers, or decomposers.
- LS.5.2.3 Use models to infer the effects that may result from the interconnected relationships of plants and animals to their ecosystem.
- ESS.5.1.4 Use models to explain how the sun's energy drives the processes of the water cycle (including evaporation, transpiration, condensation, precipitation).