

# Greetings, Family!

A worm is part of an ecosystem. So is the soil in which it lives. In this unit, "Ecosystems," our science class will learn how to identify the living and nonliving parts of different ecosystems. We will also learn about ecosystems on land and in water, and examine how the organisms in each ecosystem interact and depend upon one another. All organisms have a variety of adaptations that help them survive in their ecosystem. We will learn about many of these, including those of humans!

You can make science come alive for your student by looking for things in your neighborhood (plants, animals, rocks) and asking your student if they are living or nonliving. If an object is living, ask your student how certain features might represent adaptations that help the organism survive. For example, if you find a grasshopper, encourage your student to think about how its powerful legs might help it to escape predators. What other living things does the organism compete with for survival? Which living things does the organism depend upon for survival?

For this unit, we will be doing some hands-on activities to study living things, using the materials listed below. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your items by\_\_\_\_\_.

- potting soil
- plastic cups
- cotton balls
- plastic jars
- plastic measuring cup
- rocks/gravel
- masking tape

Finally, we could also use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to the class.

Thank you very much for your help!

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## Family Newsletter Unit A, Ecosystems

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_