

# Greetings, Family!

Ecosystems are always changing. All their parts affect each other, sometimes in ways that are not easily seen. In this unit, we will be studying "Energy and Matter in Ecosystems." We will look at how organisms get the energy and matter they need to survive.

You can help make science come alive for your student by having him or her look more closely at the world around you. When you see an organism, encourage your child to think about where it gets its energy and what other organisms might use it as a source of energy. You might point out a squirrel eating seeds or nuts. Then ask what animals might hunt and eat the squirrel. Ask him or her to think about what would happen to the ecosystems around you if one organism disappeared. How would this affect the flow of energy from one organism to another?

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

- toothpicks
- bread
- masking tape
- clear plastic cups
- potting soil
- clear plastic wrap
- rubber bands
- newspapers

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 the activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

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## Family Newsletter

### Unit B, Energy and Matter in Ecosystems

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

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