

Greetings, Family!

Every living thing is just a small part of a group of living and nonliving organisms that make up an ecosystem. In this unit, "Ecosystems," our science class will learn how to identify the key parts of ecosystems. We will see how energy and matter flow through ecosystems and what happens when the resources of ecosystems fail to meet the needs of their living parts. We will finish by talking about fossils and what they tell us about ecosystems of the past.

You can make science come alive for your student by looking for objects (plant, animal, rock) in the wild and asking your student if they are living or nonliving. If an object is living, ask your student where it falls in the food chain. What other living things does it compete with? Which ones does it depend on? What changes to the ecosystem that might threaten the survival of the species?

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

- masking tape
- black construction paper
- flashlights
- mealworms
- small index cards
- modeling clay
- plastic jars
- glass jars
- hand lenses

Finally, we could 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!

Family Newsletter Unit B, Ecosystems

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____