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Lesson Plan: A local ecosystem
Unit: Environmental Science: Ecosystems
5th grade

Unit

NJCCS: 5.1, 5.4, 5.8, 5.10

Essential Questions:

How do human interference affect an ecosystem?

What can humans do to preserve the health of an ecosystem?

How can humans help to maintain species on Earth and prevent endangerment and extinction?

Enduring Understandings:

Human interference can help or harm the natural Earth. Organisms live in specific ecosystems and suffer when the ecosystems are disturbed.

Content:

ecosystem, community, population, species.

abiotic and biotic

endangered species

Skills:

SWBAT

Identify things as abiotic or biotic in an ecosystem.

Order groups within an ecosystem.

Make natural observations of various ecosystems.

Observe the water cycle.

Build and analyze various ecosystems.

Lesson 1: Activity—A Local Ecosystem (The woods behind our school)

Objective: SWBAT observe, examine, and record data about the contents of a local ecosystem.

Description: In this activity, students will conduct a guided inquiry on how parts of an ecosystem interact with and/or affect each other. Students will be led into the woods behind our school, observe the living and nonliving things there, and collect a sample of the soil for further observation in class using magnifying glasses

Baseline Assessment: Students draw and color a picture of a forest ecosystem and label its parts.

Assessment: Teacher observation of students' predictions, classifications, observations, and conclusions.