

Ecosystems Crossword

Lesson Plan

Summary:

This crossword puzzle should be used as a follow-up to the Secret Message activity.

Educational Objective:

1. Students will continue vocabulary development necessary to understand ecosystems and to prepare them for a solid learning experience at the SMNHC.

Standards Addressed:

NMSS: NM II- Life Science, BM I.1 & I.2 (ecosystems)
NM II- Earth & Space, BM II.3 (Earth's water)

NGSS:

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Life Science 2.A & 2.B; Earth & Space Science 2.C
Crosscutting Concepts: Cause & Effect; Energy & Matter; Structure & Function

CCSS: RI.5.4 Academic & domain-specific words
L.5.4 Determine word meaning

Time:

20 minutes

Materials:

Each student needs:

Pencil

Copy of crossword puzzle with word bank

Dictionary or the provided Glossary of Terms

Procedure:

1. Students complete the crossword puzzle after completing and reviewing the Secret Message activity.
2. Provide a copy of Ecosystems Crossword with word bank (and Glossary of Terms, if desired) for each student.
3. Review answers and resolve any student questions.

Key:

Across

2. Predator
6. Elevation
7. Carnivore
8. Producer
11. Decomposer
14. Precipitation
16. Conifer
17. Scavenger
18. Fungus
19. Evergreen

Down

1. Bacteria
3. Herbivore
4. Habitat
5. Consumer
7. Camouflage
9. Scat
10. Deciduous
12. Omnivore
13. Spring
15. Prey



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Glossary of Terms

These vocabulary terms are used both in this crossword as well as the other Pre-Trip Activity, Secret Message, and are essential for a thorough learning experience at the SMNHC.

Bacteria: A microscopic decomposer.

*There are many kinds of bacteria, but not all of them are decomposers.

Camouflage: The color or shape of creature that helps it blend with its environment.

Carnivore: An animal that only eats other animals.

Conifer: A type of tree that has cones. A pine tree is a type of conifer.

Consumer: A living thing that must eat to get its energy.

Deciduous: A plant that loses its leaves in the fall.

Decomposer: An organism that gets its energy by breaking down dead material.

Elevation: The measurement of distance above sea level.

Evergreen: A plant that keeps its needles or leaves all year long.

Fungus: A type of decomposer. Mushrooms and molds are both fungi (plural of fungus).

Habitat: The place where an organism lives.

Herbivore: An animal that only eats plants.

Omnivore: An animal that eats both plants and animals.

Precipitation: Any form of water that falls from the sky (rain, snow, hail).

Predator: An animal that hunts other animals for food.

Prey: An animal that is hunted.

Producer: A living thing that makes its own energy through *photosynthesis*. Plants are producers.

Scat: Animal droppings.

Scavenger: An animal that eats already dead plants or animals (NOT a decomposer).

Spring: An area where ground water comes to the surface.