

What Is an Ecosystem?

Week 18 • Monday • Life Science

Reading Time

Last week we learned about habitats. This week we go deeper. An ecosystem is a habitat plus all the living things in it. It also includes non-living things like sun, water, air, and soil.

In an ecosystem, everything works together. Plants use sunlight to make their own food. We call plants producers because they produce, or make, food.

Animals cannot make their own food. They must eat plants or other animals. We call animals consumers because they consume, or eat, food.

Living things in an ecosystem depend on each other. A rabbit needs grass to eat. A bee needs flowers for nectar. Flowers need bees to spread pollen. A bird needs a tree for its nest. Everything is connected!

Reading Questions

1. What is an ecosystem?
2. Why are plants called producers?
3. Why are animals called consumers?
4. Name one way two living things depend on each other.

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

ecosystem	producer
consumer	depend
living	non-living

Parts of an Ecosystem

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Sort It Out

Sort these into the chart: **oak tree, sunlight, rabbit, rock, grass, water, fox, soil, flower, air**

Producers (plants)	Consumers (animals)	Non-Living Things

True or False

Statement	T	F
An ecosystem has living and non-living parts.	T	F
Animals are producers.	T	F
Plants use sunlight to make food.	T	F
Living things depend on each other.	T	F
Soil and water are living things.	T	F
A consumer eats plants or other animals.	T	F

Drawing

Draw one example of each ecosystem part.

A producer

A consumer

A non-living thing

Think About It

How does a bee depend on a flower? How does a flower depend on a bee?

Everything Is Connected

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Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank:

- ecosystem
- producers
- consumers
- sunlight
- depend
- non-living

1. A habitat plus all its living things is an _____.
2. Plants are _____ because they make their own food.
3. Animals are _____ because they eat food.
4. Plants need _____ to make food.
5. Sun, water, air, and soil are _____ things.
6. Living things _____ on each other to survive.

Who Depends on Who?

Finish each sentence in the chart.

Living Thing	What It Depends On	Why
rabbit		
bird		
flower		
YOU		

Challenge

What are two ways you depend on plants every day?

Science Journal

Write one new thing you learned about ecosystems today.