Block-Builders Ecosystem Communities and Interactions

Grade 6 | science | block-builders

Students will be able to identify and explain ecosystems, organisms, and interactions within block-builders habitats

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Block-builders create miniature habitats. What is an ecosystem?

2. In a block-builders garden ecosystem, name two living things you might find.

3. Describe how a block-builders ecosystem needs both living and non-living parts.

4. Block-builders notice ants farming aphids on their plants. What is this relationship called?

5. In a block-builders miniature forest, explain why decomposers are important to the ecosystem.

6. Block-builders create a sealed terrarium ecosystem. Predict what happens if all decomposers are removed.

7. Explain how energy flows through a block-builders garden from sun to plants to insects to birds.

8. Block-builders remove all spiders from their ecosystem model. Analyze potential consequences for the ecosystem.

Answer Key: Block-Builders Ecosystem Communities and Interactions

Grade 6 | TEACHER/PARENT USE ONLY

Use physical building blocks to represent different ecosystem organisms and create tangible food chains during discussion.

1. Block-builders create miniature habitats. What is an ecosystem?

Answer: An ecosystem is a community of organisms and their physical environment interacting together.

2. In a block-builders garden ecosystem, name two living things you might find.

Answer: Acceptable answers: plants, insects, birds, soil organisms, worms, or similar living things.

3. Describe how a block-builders ecosystem needs both living and non-living parts.

Answer: Living parts provide food and shelter; non-living parts like soil, water, and sunlight support survival.

4. Block-builders notice ants farming aphids on their plants. What is this relationship called?

Answer: This is symbiosis or mutualism, where both organisms benefit from the relationship.

5. In a block-builders miniature forest, explain why decomposers are important to the ecosystem.

Answer: Decomposers break down dead organisms and return nutrients to soil, allowing new growth.

6. Block-builders create a sealed terrarium ecosystem. Predict what happens if all decomposers are removed.

Answer: Dead organisms accumulate, nutrients cannot cycle, plants lack nutrients, and the ecosystem collapses.

7. Explain how energy flows through a block-builders garden from sun to plants to insects to birds.

Answer: Energy from the sun is captured by plants; herbivores eat plants; carnivores eat herbivores.

8. Block-builders remove all spiders from their ecosystem model. Analyze potential consequences for the ecosystem.

Answer: Insect populations increase unchecked, plants get overeaten, food chain breaks, ecosystem becomes unbalanced.