

Leo Discovers Life in Outer Space

Grade 3

English

Nonfiction

Space Theme

~142 words

RI.3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.6, L.3.4

Name: _____ Date: _____

 **READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.**

Leo floated inside his space station and studied Earth far below. He could see green forests and blue oceans. Those colors told him something important. Earth was full of life. Leo learned that an ecosystem is a community of living things. Plants, animals, and insects all share one home. They need each other to survive. A forest ecosystem has trees, birds, bugs, and soil. Each part helps the others stay alive. Leo noticed something else through his window. Deserts, oceans, and forests looked very different from space. Each place had its own ****ecosystem****. An ocean ecosystem holds fish, plants, and tiny creatures. A desert ecosystem has lizards, cacti, and dry sand. Every ecosystem works like a team. Leo pressed his face to the glass and smiled. He had discovered that Earth is not just one world. It is many ecosystems working together every single day.

 *Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.*

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Questions

 **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What does the text say each part of an ecosystem does for the others?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word ecosystem mean in this passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think Leo smiled when he looked at Earth through the glass?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. Because Leo saw green forests and blue oceans from space, what did he understand?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How does the passage describe what is found inside an ocean ecosystem?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Leo Discovers Life in Outer Space

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Leo floated inside his space station and studied Earth far below. He could see green forests and blue oceans. Those colors told him something important. Earth was full of life. Leo learned that an ecosystem is a community of living things. Plants, animals, and insects all share one home. They need each other to survive. A forest ecosystem has trees, birds, bugs, and soil. Each part helps the others stay alive. Leo noticed something else through his window. Deserts, oceans, and forests looked very different from space. Each place had its own **ecosystem**. An ocean ecosystem holds fish, plants, and tiny creatures. A desert ecosystem has lizards, cacti, and dry sand. Every ecosystem works like a team. Leo pressed his face to the glass and smiled. He had discovered that Earth is not just one world. It is many ecosystems working together every single day.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about Leo learning what ecosystems are and how many different ecosystems exist on Earth. He discovers this while looking at Earth from his space station.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What does the text say each part of an ecosystem does for the others?

The text says, "Each part helps the others stay alive." This shows that every living thing in an ecosystem has an important job.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word ecosystem mean in this passage?

In this passage, ecosystem means a community of living things that share one home and need each other to survive. For example, a forest ecosystem includes trees, birds, bugs, and soil all working together.

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think Leo smiled when he looked at Earth through the glass?

Leo probably smiled because he felt excited and amazed by what he had just learned. Seeing so many different ecosystems from space helped him understand how special and full of life Earth truly is.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. Because Leo saw green forests and blue oceans from space, what did he understand?

Because Leo saw those colors, he understood that Earth was full of life. The colors were a clue that living things existed all across the planet.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How does the passage describe what is found inside an ocean ecosystem?

The passage states, "An ocean ecosystem holds fish, plants, and tiny creatures." This tells readers that many different living things share the ocean as their home.