

Baking Champions Learn About Forest Ecosystems

Grade 5

Science

Nonfiction

Baking champions Theme

~146 words

NGSS.5-LS2-1

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

The Baking Champions club decided to learn about forest ecosystems while planning their nature-themed bake sale. An ecosystem is a community of living and nonliving things that interact together. In a forest ecosystem, trees, plants, and animals depend on each other to survive. Trees provide food and shelter for animals like squirrels and birds. These animals help the forest by spreading seeds as they eat and move around. The soil, water, and sunlight are nonliving parts that help plants grow. When plants die, they return nutrients to the soil, helping new plants grow strong. The Baking Champions realized that just like a balanced recipe needs all the right ingredients, a healthy ecosystem needs all its parts working together. Without trees, animals would lose their homes. Without animals spreading seeds, fewer plants would grow. Every organism plays an important role in keeping the ecosystem healthy and thriving.

▣ 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. According to the passage, what are two nonliving parts of a forest ecosystem?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'interact' mean in the passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think the author compared an ecosystem to a recipe?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens because animals eat food and move around the forest?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What does the passage say happens when plants die?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Baking Champions Learn About Forest Ecosystems

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

The Baking Champions club decided to learn about forest ecosystems while planning their nature-themed bake sale. An ecosystem is a community of living and nonliving things that interact together. In a forest ecosystem, trees, plants, and animals depend on each other to survive. Trees provide food and shelter for animals like squirrels and birds. These animals help the forest by spreading seeds as they eat and move around. The soil, water, and sunlight are nonliving parts that help plants grow. When plants die, they return nutrients to the soil, helping new plants grow strong. The Baking Champions realized that just like a balanced recipe needs all the right ingredients, a healthy ecosystem needs all its parts working together. Without trees, animals would lose their homes. Without animals spreading seeds, fewer plants would grow. Every organism plays an important role in keeping the ecosystem healthy and thriving.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

The passage explains what ecosystems are and how living and nonliving things depend on each other to survive in a forest.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what are two nonliving parts of a forest ecosystem?

According to the passage, soil, water, and sunlight are nonliving parts of a forest ecosystem.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'interact' mean in the passage?

Interact means to work together or affect each other; in this passage it refers to how living and nonliving things work together in an ecosystem.

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think the author compared an ecosystem to a recipe?

The author made this comparison to help readers understand that both a recipe and an ecosystem need all their parts working together properly to be successful.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens because animals eat food and move around the forest?

Because animals eat food and move around, they help spread seeds throughout the forest, which helps new plants grow in different areas.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What does the passage say happens when plants die?

The passage states that when plants die, they return nutrients to the soil, which helps new plants grow strong.