

Baking Champions Learn About Ecosystems

Grade 5

Science

Nonfiction

Baking champions Theme

~150 words

NGSS.5-LS2-1

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

The Baking Champions club discovered that ecosystems are like recipes with many important ingredients. Just as a cake needs flour, eggs, and sugar to work together, ecosystems need plants, animals, and decomposers to function properly. In a forest ecosystem, trees produce food through photosynthesis, herbivores eat the plants, and predators hunt the herbivores. When organisms die, decomposers break them down and return nutrients to the soil. The Baking Champions realized that removing one ingredient from their recipe ruins the cake. Similarly, removing one organism from an ecosystem can harm the entire system. Each living thing has a specific role, called a niche, just like each ingredient has a purpose. The club's teacher explained that energy flows through ecosystems in chains. Plants capture sunlight, animals eat plants, and larger animals eat smaller ones. Understanding these connections helps us protect ecosystems and appreciate how nature's recipe keeps our planet healthy and balanced.

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 do decomposers do in an ecosystem?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'niche' mean in this passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think the Baking Champions club compared ecosystems to recipes?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens when one organism is removed from an ecosystem?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How does energy flow through an ecosystem according to the passage?

✓ ANSWER KEY — Baking Champions Learn About Ecosystems

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

The Baking Champions club discovered that ecosystems are like recipes with many important ingredients. Just as a cake needs flour, eggs, and sugar to work together, ecosystems need plants, animals, and decomposers to function properly. In a forest ecosystem, trees produce food through photosynthesis, herbivores eat the plants, and predators hunt the herbivores. When organisms die, decomposers break them down and return nutrients to the soil. The Baking Champions realized that removing one ingredient from their recipe ruins the cake. Similarly, removing one organism from an ecosystem can harm the entire system. Each living thing has a specific role, called a niche, just like each ingredient has a purpose. The club's teacher explained that energy flows through ecosystems in chains. Plants capture sunlight, animals eat plants, and larger animals eat smaller ones. Understanding these connections helps us protect ecosystems and appreciate how nature's recipe keeps our planet healthy and balanced.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

The passage explains how ecosystems work by comparing them to recipes, showing how all organisms depend on each other to survive.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what do decomposers do in an ecosystem?

The passage states that decomposers break down dead organisms and return nutrients to the soil.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'niche' mean in this passage?

A niche is the specific role that each living thing has in an ecosystem, just like each ingredient has a purpose in a recipe.

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think the Baking Champions club compared ecosystems to recipes?

They compared them because both require different parts working together, and removing one part damages the whole system.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens when one organism is removed from an ecosystem?

The entire ecosystem is harmed because each living thing depends on others to survive, similar to how removing an ingredient ruins a recipe.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. How does energy flow through an ecosystem according to the passage?

The passage explains that plants capture sunlight, animals eat plants, and larger animals eat smaller ones, creating a chain of energy.