

Creating an Ecosystem Activity - Pre-Experience Activity Suggestions

Level	Author(s)	Activities
F-2	Justine Miller, Nick Margerison and Ashlee Sandars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about native inhabitants that are found in local environments, such as parklands and back-yards • Discussion about where certain animals are found (learning about habitats and ecosystems) • Ask students about animals they know – where they live, and features of each (establishing prior knowledge) • Choose an environment to investigate, and then determine what animals live there – discuss the food-chain and lifecycles of the ecosystem • Discuss similarities and differences between different species of animals
	Andrew Borg, Anthony Quilty, Gordana Stojanoska, Marisa Pace and Megan Layton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss students' experiences with native animals (establishing prior knowledge) • Read picture books about native Australian animals and their habitats • Investigation into native animals; exploring the needs of various species •
	Ryan Mitchell, Olivia Lukies, Jacinta Di Ciocco and Christopher Surendra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and define ecosystems, pose questions such as: what makes up an ecosystem? What does an ecosystem need to stay healthy? • Get students to make predictions about which animals and plants live in particular ecosystems • Ask students to make predictions about what they will see at the Wildlife Sanctuary • Explore the Wildlife Sanctuary website • Matching different animals to different food resources (exploring food-chains) •

Level	Author(s)	Activities
3-6	Justine Miller, Nick Margerison and Ashlee Sandars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the features of familiar local environments • Explore the analogy of the human body as an ecosystem • Investigation into similarities and differences between various animal species • Distinguishing living from non-living – get students to research healthy and unhealthy ecosystems online, making comparisons and predictions
	Andrew Borg, Anthony Quilty, Gordana Stojanoska, Marisa Pace and Megan Layton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss previous experiences students have had with native animals • Using informational texts, explore native animals and their habitats; research endangerment, and the impact of humans upon the environment • Students to make predictions about the cause of endangerment and extinction, then research online for information, comparing their predictions • Investigation into ecosystems (habitats/food chain)
	Ryan Mitchell, Olivia Lukies, Jacinta Di Ciocco and Christopher Surendra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree diagram of a food chain • Explore the Wildlife Sanctuary website

References

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. (2013). *AusVELS*. Retrieved from <http://ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>