



Altamonte Springs
**SCIENCE
INCUBATOR**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Ecosystems Walk

Middle School Life Science | Fall Module 1 | Lake Lotus Park

NGSSS Big Idea: Standard 17—Interdependence

Plants and animals, including humans, interact with and depend upon each other and their environment to satisfy their basic needs.

Benchmark Code & Description:

SC.6.E.7.6—Differentiate between weather and climate.

SC.7.L.17.2—Compare and contrast the relationship among organisms such as mutualism, predation, parasitism, competition and commensalism.

SC.8.L.18.1—Describe and investigate the process of photosynthesis, such as the roles of light, carbon dioxide, water and chlorophyll, production of food and release of oxygen.



LEARNING GOAL/OBJECTIVE

To understand the interactions that occur among living things and how natural selection and adaptations result from those interactions.



PREREQUISITES

Review:

- Vocabulary Words
- Applicable Textbook Sections



VOCABULARY

- Predation
- Mutualism
- Parasitism
- Competition
- Commensalism



HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Task(s):

Observe plants and animals in the park's different ecosystems.

Provided Materials:

- Hand Lens
- Clipboard/log sheets/pencils

Career Options: Environmental Engineer, Biologist, Park Ranger, Natural Lands Interpreter

Lesson Steps:

1. Students will begin their walk at Pavilion #1.
2. The Park Rangers will lead the group from the hammock through the seasonal wetland.
3. The Park Rangers will discuss various relationships among the plants and animals as they are observed in the wild.



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DATA RECORD

Questions:

1. What determines an ecosystem? _____

2. Specific conditions are required for each plant _____
As these change from one area to another, the plants growing in the areas change.

What do you call the area where two ecosystems meet? _____

3. List some of the plants in each of the various ecosystems:

| Wetland | Hardwood Hammock | Pine Sandhill |
|---------|------------------|---------------|
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| | | |
| | | |

4. Do animals go from one ecosystem to another? Yes No

Ecosystems Walk Checklist

Check off the animals and plants you saw today.

Hardwood Hammock



Florida Black Bear
*Ursus americanus
floridanus*



Bobcat
Lynx rufus



Common Squirrel
Sciuridae



Live Oak Tree with
Spanish Moss



Milkweed

The Wetlands



American Alligator
*Alligator
mississippiensis*



Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias



Ferns



Sabal/Cabbage
Palm Tree

The Pine Sandhill



Gopher tortoise
*Gopherus
polyphemus*



Long Leaf Pine Tree



Florida Pine Snake
*Pituophis
melanoleucus
mugitus*



Prickly Pear Cactus