

LEVEL
1

How am I connected to nature?

STRAND A

NGSS DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans

Populations live in a variety of habitats, and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there.

STRAND B

NGSS DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

LS4.C: Adaptation

For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.)

	FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
STRAND	A	B	A	B	A	B
PRE FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	Building a Web of Life	Two Thumbs Up for Adaptations	Habitat Services	Who Goes There?	Migration Obstacles	All About Bats
FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY Who Has the Better Beak? Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity		FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY Predator or Prey? Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity		FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY Calling All Birds Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity	
POST FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	A	B	A	B	A	B
	Constructing a Local Habitat	Create a Beast	Treatment Plants	Who Lives There?	Where to Roost?	Big Friend, Little Friend

LEVEL
2

How does our local ecosystem function?

STRAND A

NGSS DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

LS1.A Structure and Function

Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

STRAND B

NGSS DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

ESS2.E Biogeology

Living things affect the physical characteristics of their regions.

	FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
STRAND	A	B	A	B	A	B
PRE FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	The Reason for a Flower	Invasive Species: Meet the Phragmites, Buckthorn, and White Sweet clover	Admirable Adaptions	We All Need Trees	Researching Local Invasive Species	Pushy Plants
FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY All About Seeds Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity		FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY Every Tree for Itself Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity		FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY What About My Needs? Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity	
POST FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	A	B	A	B	A	B
	From Seeds to Plants	Invasive Species: Rapid Dispersal	Nonsense Botany	Forest Consequences	What Makes It Invasive?	Management Methods

LEVEL
3

How do my (human) actions affect the local ecosystem?

STRAND A

NGSS DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

LS2.A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants for food and other animals eat the animals that eat plants. Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms (both plants or plants parts and animals) and therefore operate as "decomposers." Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem.

STRAND B

NGSS DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEAS

ESS3.C Human Impacts on Earth Systems

Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth's resources and environments.

	FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
STRAND	A	B	A	B	A	B
PRE FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	Food Webs	Land Change Over Time	Perfect Pairs	Weather vs. Climate	Oodles of Boodles	A HIPPO of a Problem
FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY The Great Food Chase Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity		FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY We're All In This Together Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity		FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY What's the Impact? Environmental Exploration Stewardship Activity	
POST FIELD STUDY ACTIVITY	A	B	A	B	A	B
	The Pressure's On	Marvelous Migration	Symbiotic Sketches	The Greenhouse Effect	Wanted: Invasive Plants	Time to Reconsider