Practical activities

Notes for the teacher - If your children need to review their learning, you can use these activities to support them.

Ecosystem explorers

The resources required for this activity include a clipboard and paper

Activity: Children explore their school grounds or local area to find different examples of ecosystems. What plants and animals (or evidence of animals) can you see in this area? Which of our nearby ecosystems do you think has the most variety of plants and animals? How might the seasons change what we see in this area?

Ecosystem jam jar

The resources required for this activity include a clean jam jar and lid

Activity: Children visit a nearby ecosystem, such as a woodland, pond, or meadow, and explore carefully to observe the variety of plants, animals and natural materials present. Each child collects ten different natural items – for example, leaves, twigs, seeds, stones or feathers – to place in their jam jar.

Ecosystems and biomes sorting card game

The resources required for this activity include cards with pictures and names of biomes, ecosystems, plants and animals.

Activity: Mix up all cards and give each child or group a set. Ask children to sort the cards into correct categories, biomes or ecosystem.

e.g.

Biome: Temperate Deciduous Forest ➔ Ecosystem: Woodland, Meadow, Pond ➔ Animals/plants: Oak tree, fox, daisy, frog

After sorting, discuss why each plant or animal fits that ecosystem. Optional challenge: Include cards from other biomes to test their knowledge.

Biome builders

The resources required for this activity are tablets or laptops.

Activity: Children could use software on tablets or laptops (such as Book Creator, Minecraft: Education Edition, or Explain Everything) to create scenes of different biomes – tundra, desert, marine, grassland, rainforest, Taiga forest, and temperate forest. In addition to designing the environment, they can consider the plants and animals found there. Alternatively, you might focus on creating ecosystems within a temperate forest biome.