

In the following lesson, students shall demonstrate an understanding of cycles and patterns in earth systems and recognize characteristics of different major ecosystems of the world including: rainforest, tundra, taiga, desert, grasslands, and temperate forest. Students will have the opportunity to work together in groups.

Concepts: The earth's ecosystems.

Grade Level: 5-6

Objectives: Students shall- 1) demonstrate an understanding of cycles and patterns in earth systems. 2) recognize characteristics of different major ecosystems of the world.

Materials:

Chalk/marker

List of students' names placed in groups

6 slips of paper with a type of ecosystem on each one

Procedure:

(Introduction)

- Introduce ecosystem as the day's lesson.
- ***Ecosystem:*** *a system made up of an ecological community and its environment especially under natural conditions.* (Learning Activities)
- Have students think back to the song. Begin with hole in the ground and illustrate each step on the board. Explain that the tree is its own little ecosystem.
- Inform students the tree actually part of a larger ecosystem called the Temperate Deciduous Forest.
- Explain that there are 6 prominent types of ecosystems in the world -ask student's help in naming them and teacher lists them on the board.
 - *rainforest, tundra, taiga, desert, grasslands, temperate forest*

(Conclusion) - Assign students to their groups and have them draw out an ecosystem to research as a group.

(Extension) - The assignment is to research, write a report about their ecosystem.

Evaluation:

Students will share their ecosystem explaining the cycles and patterns of their specific ecosystem as well as the characteristics of that ecosystem.

- 1) Did students identify cycles and patterns in their specific ecosystem?
- 2) Did students identify specific characteristics?