

A Balancing Act: Predators, Prey, and their Ecosystems

Grade Level	Strand	Sub-Strand	Standard	Code	Benchmarks
5	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. Natural systems have many components that interact to maintain the living system	5.4.2.1.1	Describe a natural system in Minnesota, such as a wetland, prairie, or garden, in terms of the relationships among its living and nonliving parts, as well as inputs and outputs. For example: Design and construct a habitat for a living organism that meets its need for food, air and water.
5	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. Natural systems have many parts that interact to maintain the living system	5.4.2.1.2	Explain what would happen to a system such as a wetland, prairie or garden if one of its parts were changed. For example: Investigate how road salt runoff affects plants, insects and other parts of an ecosystem. Another example: Investigate how an invasive species changes an ecosystem.
5	4. Life Science	4. Human Interactions with Living Systems	1. Humans change environments in ways that can be either beneficial or harmful to themselves and other organisms.	5.4.4.1.1	Give examples of beneficial and harmful human interaction with natural systems. For example: Recreation, pollution, wildlife management.
7	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. Natural systems include a variety of organisms that interact with one another in several ways.	7.4.2.1.1	Identify a variety of populations and communities in an ecosystem and describe the relationships among the populations and communities in a stable ecosystem.
7	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. Natural systems include a variety of organisms that interact with one another in several ways.	7.4.2.1.2	Compare and contrast the roles of organisms within the following relationships: predator/prey, parasite/host, and producer/consumer/decomposer.
7	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	2. The flow of energy and the recycling of matter are essential to a stable ecosystem.	7.4.2.2.2	Describe the roles and relationships among producers, consumers, and decomposers in changing energy from one form to another in a food web within an ecosystem.
7	4. Life Science	4. Human Interactions with Living Systems	1. Human activity can change living organisms and ecosystems.	7.4.4.1.2	Describe ways that human activities can change the populations and communities in an ecosystem.
9-12	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. The interrelationship and interdependence of organisms generate dynamic biological communities in ecosystems.	9.4.2.1.2	Explain how ecosystems can change as a result of the introduction of one of more new species. For example: The effect of migration, localized evolution or disease organism.
9-12	4. Life Science	4. Human Interactions with Living Systems	1. Human activity has consequences on living organisms and ecosystems.	9.4.4.1.2	Describe the social, economic and ecological risks and benefits of changing a natural ecosystem as a result of human activity.

Animal Habitats

Grade Level	Strand	Sub-Strand	Standard	Code	Benchmarks
K	4. Life Science	1. Structure and Function of Living Systems	1. Living things are diverse with many different observable characteristics.	0.4.1.1.1	Observe and compare plants and animals.
1	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. Natural systems have many components that interact to maintain the system.	1.4.2.1.1	Recognize that animals need space, water, food, shelter and air.
1	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. Natural systems have many components that interact to maintain the system.	1.4.2.1.2	Describe ways in which an animal's habitat provides for its basic needs. For example: Compare students' houses with animal habitats.
2	4. Life Science	2. Interdependence Among Living Systems	1. Natural systems have many components that interact to maintain the system	2.4.2.1.1	Recognize that plants need space, water, nutrients and air, and that they fulfill these needs in different ways.

Classy Critters: Animal Diversity

Grade Level	Strand	Sub-Strand	Standard	Code	Benchmarks
3	4. Life Science	1. Structure and Function of Living Systems	1. Living things are diverse with many different characteristics that enable them to grow, reproduce and survive.	3.4.1.1.2	Identify common groups of plants and animals using observable physical characteristics, structures and behaviors. For example: Sort animals into groups such as mammals and amphibians based on physical characteristics.