

Ecosystem Explorers - School Program Curriculum Connections (Grades 3-4)

Program Summary

Within the tranquil beauty of VanDusen exists a complex and intimately connected ecosystem. By analyzing three native plant species, students will discover the intricate ways plants, big and small, interact with organisms in their environment. After discovering the vital role decomposers play in ecosystems, the group will display their understanding of energy and connections by constructing a collaborative food web.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

1. Recognize how different components of an ecosystem are interconnected
 2. Document observations and data on ecosystem interactions
 3. Observe the biodiversity and complexity found within VanDusen Garden's local environment
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Grade 3

BIG IDEAS

- Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Collect simple data
- Safely use appropriate tools to make observations and measurements

CONTENT

- biodiversity in the local environment
- energy-needed for life

Grade 4

BIG IDEAS

- All living things and their environment are interdependent

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Collect simple data
- Safely use appropriate tools to make observations and measurements

CONTENT

- the ways organisms in ecosystems sense and respond to their environment
- features of biomes