

Ecosystems

What Do You Think?

A desert ecosystem is made up of living and nonliving components. Read the list of living and nonliving components below. Where does each component belong? Write the name of each component in the correct column of the table. Then include one way each component interacts with other components in the ecosystem.

- beetle
- hawk
- mouse
- sunlight
- water
- snake
- cactus

Nonliving	Living	Interaction
	Beetle	
Sunlight		
	Cactus	Answers May Vary for this Section
	Hawk	
Water		
	Mouse	
	Snake	



Name: _____ Date: _____ Group: _____

Ecosystems Frayer Model

Directions: Complete the charts below about living and nonliving things using information from the text.

<p>Definition and Characteristics Nonliving things do not grow, need food, or reproduce.</p>	<p>Picture</p>
<p>Nonliving Things</p>	
<p>Examples Sunlight is one of the most important nonliving components. Light from the Sun helps plants to produce food and oxygen. Sunlight also provides heat that makes life on Earth possible. Without the Sun's heat, Earth would be too cold for most living things to survive.</p>	<p>Nonexamples Organisms are living things like animals and plants.</p>

<p>Definition and Characteristics Living things grow, change, produce waste, reproduce, and die.</p>	<p>Picture</p>
<p>Living Things</p>	
<p>Examples Some examples of living things are organisms such as plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria. Organisms interact with the living and nonliving things in their ecosystem to survive.</p>	<p>Nonexamples Temperature is a nonliving component that affects living things in an ecosystem.</p>



Name: _____ Date: _____ Group: _____

Claim and Evidence

Directions: After reading the text, provide four pieces of evidence that support the claim in the center box.

Evidence

Answers May Vary

Evidence

Answers May Vary

Claim

Living and nonliving things interact in an ecosystem.

Evidence

Answers May Vary

Evidence

Answers May Vary



Name: _____ Date: _____ Group: _____

Invasive Blue Catfish



1. Why are there so many blue catfish in the bay?

There are so many blue catfish in the bay because people brought them over for sport fishing, they did not originally belong here, and they do not have any predators.

2. How are the blue catfish disrupting the ecosystem?

Blue catfish are disrupting the ecosystem because there are so many of them that they are threatening native species like the blue crab. They are using up the resources in the bay.

3. The blue catfish are an invasive species because they did not originally live in the bay. Create a public service announcement that warns people against adding plants and animals to ecosystems where they do not belong.

Answers will vary.



Independent Practice

Name: _____ **Answer Key** _____ Date: _____ Group: _____

Part I: Secret Word

1. MICROBES
2. PRODUCER
3. FOOD WEB
4. CONSUMER
5. ENERGY
6. DECOMPOSERS
7. PLANTS
8. HERBIVORE
9. MEAT

Secret Word: ECOSYSTEM

Part II: Break the Code

1. ECOSYSTEM
2. FOOD WEB
3. MICROBES
4. OMNIVORE
5. CARNIVORE
6. CONSUMER
7. DECOMPOSER
8. HERBIVORE
9. PRODUCER



Concept Attainment Quiz

Name: _____ **ANSWER KEY** _____ Date: _____ Group: _____

I. Vocabulary Matching

A Living and nonliving things surrounded by their environment

D Things that happen as a result of an action

E Living things that have similar characteristics and can reproduce with each other

C Tell or guess in advance

B To make different

A. Ecosystem

B. Change

C. Predict

D. Effects

E. Species

II. Identification Match the organism or action with the environmental change it causes.

a) Beaver, dam building

b) Forest fire

c) Lack of rainfall

d) Invasive water plant arrives

e) Grasshopper outbreak

f) Coyote disease decreases their population

i. New plants can grow because of an increase in sunlight on the forest floor

ii. Zebras migrate farther to find water holes

iii. Pond floods

iv. Sunlight is blocked for native seagrasses

v. Crops are wiped out along the prairie

vi. Mice population explodes