

SCIENCE EDUCATION

facilitator's notes

Sustaining Our Environment

Activity

What is an ecosystem? How do we use ecosystems to sustain our environment?



Purpose

In this worksheet, learners identify and research ways of how to sustain our environment. In this process, learners learn to communicate in a written manner.

Background

An ecosystem is a community of plants, animals and smaller organisms that live, feed, interact and reproduce in the same area or environment. Because some ecosystems are very large, many bird species build their nests in one place, but feed in another area. Similarly some ecosystems are very small such as in a field or in a coral reef in the ocean. Different species are found in each ecosystem, even though the two environments could be found near each other. We encounter serious threats to our environment and some possible solutions. What do humans do that affects our environments? They drop their rubbish and drive cars that pollute the air. This is how ecosystems are affected. Are you aware that the waste from one living thing is always used by another? However, humans are different since their waste is not biodegradable and so it is called pollution. What happens to our rubbish? A lot of our rubbish is dropped and is called litter.

Preparation

1. Ask the learners what they think their school area looked like one million years ago, before there were any humans. Emphasise the roles they can play in making their environment sustainable.
2. What has changed in the area since then?
3. Why has it changed?

Procedure

1. Summarise information in preparing a handout for class including human influence on ecosystems and how to make it better. Include terms such as biodegradable and biodiversity.
2. For the assessment, get learners to write a letter to our government saying what they think should be done, asking what is being done and how they can help.

