

# ECOSYSTEMS

## WHAT IS AN ECOSYSTEM?

This is the definition:

An ecosystem is a community of interacting organisms and their environment. Living things interact with each other and also with non-living things like soil, water and air. Ecosystems often contain many living things and can be as small as your backyard or as large as the ocean.

In an ecosystem we can find:

### LIVING THINGS



Plants and animals.

### NON-LIVING THINGS



The soil, the air, water,  
rocks, dead trees...

Many people only think of animals when they learn of ecosystems, but in reality, an ecosystem has animals, plants, and NON-living things too. Animals need to hide inside rocks and dead trees. Water is needed to drink and some animals live in the water. Air is a non-living part of an ecosystem as well — all animals need air.

Living and non-living things interact:

### FOOD RELATIONSHIPS



- Plants produce their own food.
- Herbivores eat plants.
- Carnivores eat herbivores.

### OTHER RELATIONSHIPS



- Competition.
- Cooperation.

**VERY IMPORTANT**

**WE HAVE TO  
PROTECT  
ECOSYSTEMS.**

### 1. Read and complete.

- An *ecosystem* is a community of interacting ..... and their .....
- Living things ..... with each other and also with non-living things like ....., ..... and .....
- Ecosystems often contain many living things and can be as ..... as your backyard or as ..... as the ocean.

### 2. Match.

Food relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Competition.</li><li>▪ Cooperation.</li></ul>
Living things	The soil, the air, water, rocks, dead trees...
Non-living things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Plants produce their own food.</li><li>▪ Herbivores eat plants.</li><li>▪ Carnivores eat herbivores.</li></ul>
Other relationships	Plants and animals.

### 3. Choose the correct answer.

- An ecosystem has animals, plants, and **living** / **non-living** things too.
- Animals need to **hide inside** / **eat** rocks and dead trees.
- **Sunlight** / **Water** is needed to drink and some **animals** / **non-living things** live in the water.
- Air is a **non-living** / **living** part of an ecosystem as well — all animals need air.

### 4. Remember and write.

**VERY IMPORTANT**