



Al Ain American School

Term 2 Week 1

Grade 3 Science

Grade 3 Teachers



Unit 4: Ecosystems and Interactions

L1: What are Ecosystems?

Learning Objective:

- ❖ I will define and explain the term *ecosystem*.
- ❖ I will describe the land and water environments.

Success Criteria:

I will be successful if I can explain how plants and animals are dependent on each other in their environments.



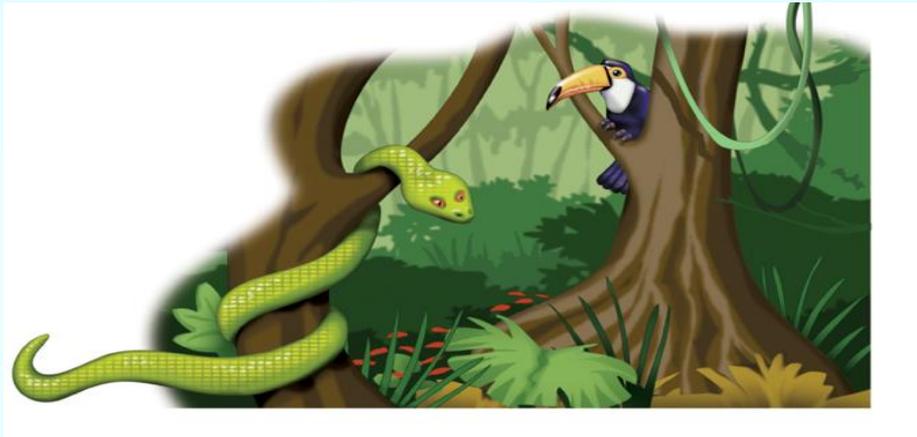
Animals and Plants at Home

- Everything that surrounds a living thing is its **environment**.
- Your classroom environment includes **living and nonliving things** like desk, teacher, books, and also the air.
- An **ecosystem** is **all** of the living and nonliving things in a place.
- In an ecosystem, living things interact with each other and the non-living parts of their environment.



Animals and Plants at Home

- A **habitat** is the space where a plant or an animal lives. Living things in the same ecosystem share resources. Many of them also share a habitat.
- Take a look at this forest. What kinds of things are in the bird's environment?



- A bird's habitat is a forest. A bird's environment is everything around it.

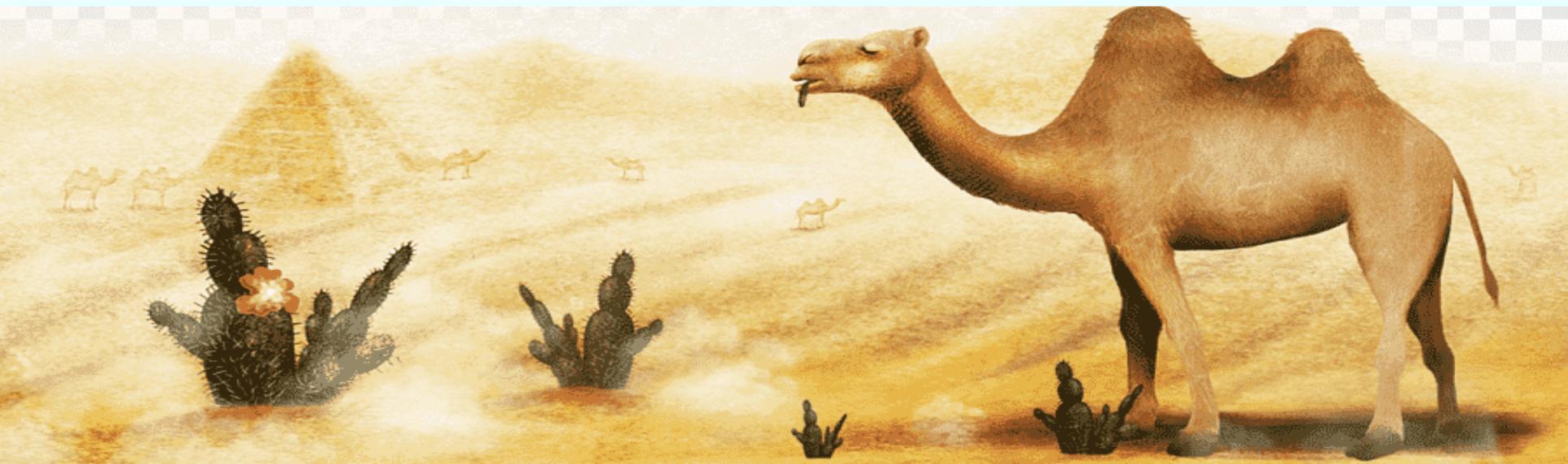
Communities of Populations

- A **population** is all of one kind of organism living in the same area.
- All the camels in Al Badayer Desert make up the camel population there.



Communities of Populations

- A **community** is all of the populations that live and interact in an area.
- The camel population and the cactus population in a desert are parts of the same community.
- An ecosystem *can* have many different communities.



Land Ecosystems

- There are many different ecosystems on land.
- **Forest ecosystems** have lots of trees. Tropical rain forests are warm and wet all year long. Jaguars, monkeys and toucans live in this type of forests.
- But some forests have warm summers and cold winters. Squirrels, wood peckers and bears are common in such type of forests.

Tropical Rain Forest



Land Ecosystems

- **Desert ecosystems** have plants and animals with adaptations that help them survive in dry areas.
- Kangaroo rats, rattle snakes, and cactus populations live in deserts.

Desert Ecosystem



Land Ecosystems

How plants and animals are dependent on each other in their environments?

- In a desert ecosystem, the elf owl eat the insects living in cactuses. The cactus ,in turn, provides a place for the owl to live.



Water Ecosystems

- **Ocean ecosystem** consists of salt water and living things like whales, lobsters, seaweed and corals.



Ocean Ecosystem

- **Fresh water ecosystem** includes rivers, lakes, ponds and streams. Fresh water has much less salt than ocean water. Frogs, ducks and many kinds of fish live in fresh water.



River Ecosystem

Let's practice!

Choose the correct word from the given word bank:

environment

ecosystem

habitat

community

population

forest

ocean

1. All of the living things and non living things in a place together makes the _____.
2. A _____ is the space where a plant or animal lives.
3. A _____ is all of *one* kind of organism living in the same area.
4. Every thing that surrounds a living thing is its _____.
5. Monkeys and tigers belong to the _____ ecosystem.

Let's practice! (Answer Key)

Choose the correct word from the given word bank:

environment ecosystem habitat community
population forest ocean

1. All of the living things and non living things in a place together makes the **ecosystem**.
2. A **habitat** is the space where a plant or animal lives.
3. A **population** is all of *one* kind of organism living in the same area.
4. Every thing that surrounds a living thing is its **environment**.
5. Monkeys and tigers belong to the **forest** ecosystem.



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Thank You & Good Luck!