

WRITING PROMPT

4

ECOSYSTEMS

Prompt

Imagine that you are one of the creatures that has just been added to an ecocolumn. Tell about a day in your life as an isopod, cricket, snail or fish. Remember your narrative needs a strong beginning, middle and end.

Word Walls

*habitat
aquarium
terrarium
interdependent
aquatic
terrestrial
elodea
duckweed
consumer
producer
alfalfa seed
grass seed*

Writing Standards

- E2a – Report Writing
- E2b – Response to Literature
- E2c – Narrative Account
- E2d – Narrative Procedure

Science Standards

- S1 Physical Sciences Concepts
- S2 Life Sciences Concepts
- S3 Earth and Space Sciences Concepts
- S7 Scientific Communication

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Prompt

Write a letter to the mayor of your city or town describing the effects of pollutants on rivers. In your letter, suggest several ways your town or city can protect your river.

Note to Teachers: Read [A River Ran Wild](#) by Lynn Cherry or any other book on river pollutions.

Word Walls

*ecology
environment
soil
water
respiration
fertilizers
watershed
algae bloom
interdependent
pollutant
pollution
acid rain*

Writing Standards

- E2a – Report Writing
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Science Standards

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QUICK WRITES

GRADE 4

Ecosystems

Lesson No.

1

List 3 things humans need in order to live. Explain why those things are needed.

2

Do you think all the seeds will germinate? Why or why not?

3

Think of one living thing, how does it get what it needs to live in nature.

4

Explain how elodea and duckweed are similar. How are they different?

5

Examine your ecosystem. Describe any changes you have noticed this week.

6

Tell me how crickets and isopods are alike. How are they different?

7

Predict the impact, if any, the terrestrial habitat will have on the aquatic habitat once we join them together. Tell why you think this.

8

Tell me what you think pollutants are. How can they be harmful to the environment?

9

Tell me something a company can do to fight pollution.

10

Tell me how pollution affects the environment.

11 *How can you tell whether or not water is polluted?*

12 *List any questions you may have about the effects of pollutants on a habitat.*

13 *Tell me where you think pollutants go.*

14 *Tell me what you learned about Narragansett Bay or Chesapeake Bay.*

15 *Describe a real environmental problem you have noticed in your community.*

16 *Yesterday you wrote about a problem you noticed in your community. Write about a possible solution.*

WORD WALL

Ecosystems

ecosystem	consumers	interdependent relationships	cerci
ecology	mosquito fish	germination	ovipositor
environment	larvae	embryo	entomologist
aquarium	fry	cotyledon	pollutant
terrarium	lateral line	seed coat	pollution
soil	gravid spot	radicle	acidity
alfalfa seed	live-bearers	isopods	basicity
grass seed	gastropods	terrestrial	alkalinity
mustard seed	antenna	exoskeleton	neutral
elodea	shell	molt	pH scale
duckweed plants	foot	aquatic	fossil fuels
algae	eyes	scavengers	sulfur dioxide
water	tentacles	thorax	nitrogen dioxide
gravel	radula	house cricket	sulfuric acid
respiration	mantle	nymph	nitric acid
photosynthesis	scavengers	abdomen	acid rain
producers	base	agriculture	acidic
fertilizers	algae bloom	road salt	experimental variable
watershed	sediment	trade-off	habitat