Altamonte Springs
SCIENCE INCUBATOR

Name: _____
Date: _____

Ecosystems Walk

Middle School Life Science | Fall Module 1 | Lake Lotus Park

NGSSS Big Idea: Standard 17—Interdependence

Plants and animals, including humans, interact with and depend upon each other and their environment to satisfy their basic needs.

Benchmark Code & Description:

SC.6.E.7.6—Differentiate between weather and climate.

SC.7.L.17.2—Compare and contrast the relationship among organisms such as mutualism, predation, parasitism, competition and commensalism.

SC.8.L.18.1—Describe and investigate the process of photosynthesis, such as the roles of light, carbon dioxide, water and chlorophyll, production of food and release of oxygen.

LEARNING GOAL/OBJECTIVE

To understand the interactions that occur among living things and how natural selection and adaptations result from those interactions.

PREREQUISITES

Review:

- Vocabulary Words
- Applicable Textbook Sections

VOCABULARY

- Predation
- Mutualism
- Parasitism
- Competition
- Commensalism

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Task(s):

Observe plants and animals in the park's different ecosystems.

Provided Materials:

- Hand Lens
- Clipboard/log sheets/pencils

Career Options: Environmental Engineer, Biologist, Park Ranger, Natural Lands Interpreter

Lesson Steps:

1. Students will begin their walk at Pavilion #1.
2. The Park Rangers will lead the group from the hammock through the seasonal wetland.
3. The Park Rangers will discuss various relationships among the plants and animals as they are observed in the wild.

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DATA RECORD

Questions:

1. What determines an ecosystem? _____
_____
_____
_____

2. Specific conditions are required for each plant _____.
As these change from one area to another, the plants growing in the areas change.

What do you call the area where two ecosystems meet? _____

3. List some of the plants in each of the various ecosystems:

Wetland	Hardwood Hammock	Pine Sandhill

4. Do animals go from one ecosystem to another? ❑ YES ❑ NO