

ECOLOGY

UNIT 3

Pacing Guide

Each lesson is packed with rich content and, depending on student interest, can be enjoyed several times. Repetition and further exploration promote depth of inquiry and build students' knowledge on the topics.

Lesson	Topic	Science Objectives	Reading Standards	Foundational Skills Focus*	
				Phonological/ Phonemic Awareness	Phonics/ Word Study
Topic 1	Introduction to Ecology				Power Words
1.1	Introduction to Ecosystems	Distinguish living organisms from non-living things in a variety of ecosystems.	Review RI.K.5, RL.K.5, and RI.K.9 as necessary.	Syllables	<i>they, said</i>
1.2	Plants vs. Animals	Distinguish plants from animals and explain the differences.			<i>come, get</i>
Topic 2	Savannas				Power Words
2.1	Savanna Ecosystems	Observe, identify, and describe living organisms and non-living things found in savanna ecosystems.	Students will be able to determine the main topic and key details of a Read-Aloud about savannas with teacher support. (RI.K.2)	Syllables	<i>big, little</i>
2.2	Savanna Animals	Name and describe animals that live in the savanna.			<i>live, lots</i>
2.3	Adaptations of Savanna Animals	Describe how savanna animals’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			<i>for, one</i>
2.4	Savanna Plants	Describe how savanna plants’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			<i>up, down</i>
2.5	Savanna Food Webs	Discuss how different savanna plants and animals are connected through food webs.			<i>can’t</i>
Topic 3	Forests				Power Words; consonant-l blends
3.1	Forest Ecosystems	Observe, identify, and describe living organisms and non-living things found in forest ecosystems.	Students will be able to determine the main topic and key details of a Read-Aloud about forests with teacher support. (RI.K.2)	Syllables	<i>but, not</i>
3.2	Forest Animals	Name and describe animals that live in the forest.			<i>day, play</i>
3.3	Adaptations of Forest Animals	Describe how forest animals’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			pl-, cl-
3.4	Forest Plants	Describe how forest plants’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			bl-, sl-
3.5	Forest Food Webs	Discuss how different forest plants and animals are connected through food webs.			fl-, gl-

*Readers expand their understanding of the alphabetic principle to include initial blends and digraphs. They continue to map speech sounds to letters as they learn additional high-frequency words, strengthening the foundation for one-syllable decoding.

Lesson	Topic	Science Objectives	Reading Standards	Foundational Skills Focus	
				Phonological/ Phonemic Awareness	Phonics/ Word Study
Topic 4	Oceans				Power Words; consonant-r blends
4.1	Ocean Ecosystems	Observe, identify, and describe living organisms and non-living things found in ocean ecosystems.	Students will be able to retell Read-Alouds about oceans with support. (RL.K.2)	Syllables	<i>from, if</i>
4.2	Ocean Animals	Name and describe animals that live in the ocean.			fr-, br-
4.3	Adaptations of Ocean Animals	Describe how ocean animals’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			cr-, dr-
4.4	Ocean Plants	Describe how ocean plants’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			gr-, pr-, tr-
4.5	Ocean Food Webs	Discuss how different ocean plants and animals are connected through food webs.			<i>out, about</i>
Topic 5	Deserts				Power Words; consonant-h digraphs
5.1	Desert Ecosystems	Observe, identify, and describe living organisms and non-living things found in desert ecosystems.	Students will be able to identify reasons an author gives to support his/her point with teacher support. (RI.K.8) Students will be able to retell Read-Alouds about deserts with support. (RL.K.2)	Syllables	<i>them, then, these</i>
5.2	Desert Animals	Name and describe animals that live in the desert.			th-, sh-, ch-
5.3	Adaptations of Desert Animals	Describe how desert animals’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			<i>when</i>
5.4	Desert Plants	Describe how desert plants’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			wh-
5.5	Desert Food Webs	Discuss how different desert plants and animals are connected through food webs.			<i>eat, saw</i>
Topic 6	Rainforests				Power Words; remaining blends
6.1	Rainforest Ecosystems	Observe, identify, and describe living organisms and non-living things found in rainforest ecosystems.	Students will be able to identify reasons an author gives to support his/her point with teacher support. (RI.K.8) Students will be able to retell Read-Alouds about rainforests with support. (RL.K.2)	Syllables	<i>stop, off</i>
6.2	Rainforest Animals	Name and describe animals that live in the rainforest.			st-, sk-, sc-
6.3	Adaptations of Rainforest Animals	Describe how rainforest animals’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			sm-, sn-
6.4	Rainforest Plants	Describe how rainforest plants’ characteristics allow them to thrive in their environment.			sp-, sw-, tw-
6.5	Rainforest Food Webs	Discuss how different rainforest plants and animals are connected through food webs.			<i>make, take</i>