



Marietta City Schools
2025–2026 District Unit Planner

Science Grade 7

Unit title	Ecology and Biomes	MYP year	2	Unit duration (hrs)	33.75 Hours
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Mastering Content and Skills through INQUIRY (Establishing the purpose of the Unit): *What will students learn?*

GA DoE Standards

Standards

S7L4. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to examine the interdependence of organisms with one another and their environments.

- Construct an explanation for the patterns of interactions observed in different ecosystems in terms of the relationships among and between organisms and abiotic components of the ecosystem. (Clarification statement: The interactions include, but are not limited to, predator-prey relationships, competition, mutualism, parasitism, and commensalism.)
- Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and the flow of energy among biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem. (Clarification statement: Emphasis is on tracing movement of matter and flow of energy, not the biochemical mechanisms of photosynthesis and cellular respiration.)
- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for how resource availability, disease, climate, and human activity affect individual organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems.
- Ask questions to gather and synthesize information from multiple sources to differentiate between Earth's major terrestrial biomes (i.e., tropical rainforest, savanna, temperate forest, desert, grassland, taiga, and tundra) and aquatic ecosystems (i.e., freshwater, estuaries, and marine). (Clarification statement: Emphasis is on the factors that influence patterns across biomes such as the climate, availability of food and water, and location.)

Prior Student Knowledge: (REFLECTION – PRIOR TO TEACHING THE UNIT)

In fourth grade, students should have mastered the following:

S4L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the roles of organisms and the flow of energy within an ecosystem.

- Develop a model to describe the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers in a community. (Clarification statement: Students are not expected to identify the different types of consumers – herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and scavengers.)
- Develop simple models to illustrate the flow of energy through a food web/food chain beginning with sunlight and including producers, consumers, and decomposers.
- Design a scenario to demonstrate the effect of a change on an ecosystem. (Clarification statement: Include living and nonliving factors in the scenario.)
- Use printed and digital data to develop a model illustrating and describing changes to the flow of energy in an ecosystem when plants or animals become scarce, extinct, or

over-abundant.

Concepts/Skills to be Mastered by Students

- Interdependent relationships in Ecosystems and Biomes
- Cycles of matter and energy transfer in ecosystems.
- Ecosystems dynamics, functioning, and resilience
- Human Impact on ecosystems

Key Vocabulary: (KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS)

Interdependence, life science, interaction, abiotic, biotic, organism, population, community, ecosystem, biome, biosphere, predator, predation, prey, competition, symbiosis, symbiotic relationships, mutualism, commensalism, parasitism, matter, energy, food chain, food web, producer, consumer, herbivore, omnivore, carnivore, decomposer, primary, secondary, tertiary, carbon cycle, nitrogen cycle, phosphorus cycle, water cycle, climate, resources, terrestrial, tropical rainforest, savanna, temperate forest, desert, grassland, taiga, tundra, aquatic, freshwater, estuary, marine, limiting factors, carrying capacity.

Year-Long Anchoring Phenomena: (LEARNING PROCESS)

Humans have the ability to positively and/or negatively impact biological and ecological systems.

Unit Phenomena (LEARNING PROCESS)

Ecology: How do the choices we make impact our ecosystems?

Biomes: How are biomes impacted by changes in climate, resource availability, and human activity?

CER: Students answer the phenomenon in a Claim-Evidence-Reasoning constructed response as a formative assessment. Students make edits to their constructed response throughout the unit for a final summative submission.

Possible Preconceptions/Misconceptions: (REFLECTION – PRIOR TO TEACHING THE UNIT)

Students may confuse the terms “matter” and “energy,” along with the cycling of matter and the flow of energy.

Students may confuse predation with parasitism.

Students may have difficulty distinguishing between the different types of symbiotic relationships.

Students may forget that the original source for all energy in ecosystems comes from the sun.

Key concept	Related concept(s)	Global context
Systems Systems are sets of interacting or interdependent components. Systems provide structure and order in human, natural and built environments. Systems can be static or dynamic, simple or complex.	Patterns (MYP/CCC) Environment (MYP)	Globalization and Sustainability Students will explore the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the relationship between local and global processes; how local experiences mediate the global; the opportunities and tensions provided by world interconnectedness; the impact of decision-making on humankind and the environment.
Statement of inquiry		
Ecosystem sustainability is impacted by environmental changes locally and globally.		
Inquiry questions		
Factual What are biotic and abiotic factors? What are examples of symbiotic relationships? What are the levels of ecological organization? What is a food web in an ecosystem? What are the characteristics of Earth's terrestrial biomes and aquatic ecosystems? Conceptual What is the difference between biotic and abiotic factors? How do organisms interact with one another and their environments? How do biotic factors interact with abiotic factors to obtain resources from the environment? How does resource availability, disease, climate, and human activity affect organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems? What models can be used to determine the cycling of matter and the flow of energy? How are species adapted for life within a certain biome? Debatable Is it possible to repair a damaged ecosystem? What is our role in preserving, protecting, and maintaining ecosystems locally and globally? What is the best way to model a sustainable ecosystem?		

How can an organism's natural environment be replicated in a human-designed environment?
 How are biomes influenced by patterns such as climate, food and water availability, and location? How do human impacts influence biomes?
 What steps can we take to support sustainable ecosystems?

MYP Objectives	Assessment Tasks	
<i>What specific MYP objectives will be addressed during this unit?</i>	<i>Relationship between summative assessment task(s) and statement of inquiry:</i>	<i>List of common formative and summative assessments.</i>
<p>Science:</p> <p>Criterion A: Knowing and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. describe scientific knowledge ii. apply scientific knowledge to solve problems set in familiar and unfamiliar situations iii. analyze information to make scientifically supported judgments <p>Criterion B. Inquiring and Designing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. explain a problem or question to be tested by a scientific investigation iii. explain how to manipulate the variables, and explain how data will be collected iv. design scientific investigations. 	<p>Students will plan and carry out investigations, run simulations, and develop models to demonstrate their understanding of the interdependence of organisms with one another and their environments.</p> <p>Students will be provided with multiple scenarios to analyze and determine how resource availability, disease, environmental changes, and human impact would influence the populations found in an ecosystem.</p>	<p><u>Formative Assessment(s):</u></p> <p>Ecology Common Formative Assessments Biomes Common Formative Assessment</p> <p><u>Summative Assessment(s):</u></p> <p>Ecology and Biomes Unit Assessment Paper I and Paper II Biome in a bottle project</p>

<p>Criterion C: Processing and Evaluating</p> <p>ii. interpret data and describe results using scientific reasoning</p> <p>Criterion D: Reflecting on the Impacts of Science</p> <p>i. describe the ways in which science is applied and used to address a specific problem or issue</p> <p>ii. discuss and analyze the various implications of using science and its application in solving a specific problem or issue</p> <p>iii. apply scientific language effectively</p> <p>Design:</p> <p>Criterion B:</p> <p>i. develop a design specification which outlines the success criteria for the design of a solution based on the data collected</p> <p>iii. present the chosen design and outline the reasons for its selection</p> <p>Criterion C:</p> <p>iii. follow the plan to create the solution, which functions as intended</p> <p>v. present the solution as a whole</p>		
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<p>Criterion D:</p> <p>i. explain the success of the solution against the design specification</p> <p>iii. describe how the solution could be improved</p>		
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Approaches to learning (ATL)

Category: Thinking

Cluster: Critical-Thinking

Skill Indicator: Use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues. Gather and organize relevant information to formulate an argument.

Learning Experiences

Common learning experiences are pinnacle instructional activities that all PLC members have vetted as rigorous, aligned, student centered, equitable skill based learning experiences for all students taking this course. Click [here](#) for definition and further guidance on common learning experiences.

Objective or Content	Learning Experiences	Personalized Learning and Differentiation
S7L4.a Construct an explanation for the patterns of interactions observed in different ecosystems in terms of the relationships among and between organisms and abiotic components of the ecosystem.	CER Nearpod CER Activity MMS Ecosystem Walk Identifying and Evaluating Symbiotic Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discovery Education Science Techbook NGSS Case Studies for Differentiated Learners

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next Generation Science Standards: “All Standards, All Students” ● Extensions – Enrichment Tasks/Projects <p>All information included by PLC in the differentiation box is the responsibility and ownership of the local school to review and approve per Board Policy IKB.</p> <p>Task-Specific Differentiation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choice Board ● Scaffolding ● Extended Learning ● Sentence Starters ● Scaffolded Tasks Using TALKS ● Mode/Method of Presentation ● Type of Product
S7L4.b Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and the flow of energy among biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem. (Clarification statement: Emphasis is on tracing movement of matter and flow of energy, not the biochemical mechanisms of photosynthesis and cellular respiration.)	Cycles of matter jigsaw activity Analyzing and Interpreting Food Chains & Food Webs	
S7L4.c. Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for how resource availability, disease, climate, and human activity affect individual organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems.	Levels of Ecological Organization Nearpod Climate Change Video Climate Migrants Ecology Lab report	
S7L4.d. Ask questions to gather and synthesize information from multiple sources to differentiate between Earth’s major terrestrial biomes and aquatic ecosystems.	Climate Migrants Biome in a Bottle Engineering Design	
Content Resources		
<p>Georgia Grade 7 Science Stability and Change in Living Systems Instructional Segment</p> <p>Mosa Mack: Food Webs, Interaction of Organisms</p> <p>Discovery Education Grade 7 Science Techbook</p> <p>Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): Middle School - Disruptions in Ecosystems</p>		

