

# SAAVAS Topic 6 School to Home Letter

Dear Family Member or Caregiver,

In the Topic “Interactions in Ecosystems”, students learn about ecosystems as they explore the patterns, cycles, systems, and relationships within environments.

The experiences in this topic are:

- Experience 1: Organisms in Ecosystems
- Experience 2: Energy in Ecosystems
- Experience 3: Changes in Ecosystems
- Experience 4: Fossils

In Experience 1, students explain how temperature and precipitation affect animal growth and behavior and plant responses. Next, in Experience 2, students describe the flow of energy in a food chain and predict how changes in a food chain affect the ecosystem. Then, in Experience 3, students describe how natural changes to the environment cause organisms to thrive, perish, or change location. Finally, in Experience 4, students identify fossils as evidence of past living organisms and their environments.

The main content TEKS covered in this topic are:

- 3.12A Explain how temperature and precipitation affect animal growth and behavior through migration and hibernation and plant responses through dormancy.
- 3.12B Identify and describe the flow of energy in a food chain and predict how changes in a food chain such as removal of frogs from a pond or bees from a field affect the ecosystem.
- 3.12C Describe how natural changes to the environment such as floods and droughts cause some organisms to thrive and others to perish or move to new locations.
- 3.12D Identify fossils as evidence of past living organisms and environments, including common Texas fossils.

And the main SEPs and Recurring Themes and Concepts TEKS are:

- 3.1G Develop and use models to represent phenomena and objects.
- 3.2B Analyze data by identifying any patterns.
- 3.5A Identify patterns to explain scientific phenomena.
- 3.5G Explain how factors or conditions impact change in organisms and systems.

One of the best ways for students to check on their learning is to explain it to someone else. Ask your student about their class experiences, and ask them to explain the content that they are learning while at school in their own words or, if relevant, in their first language.