

SAAVAS Topic 6 School to Home Letter

Dear Family Member or Caregiver,

In the Topic “Interactions in Ecosystems”, students learn about ecosystems. The experiences in this topic are:

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

First, in Experience 1, students identify producers, consumers, and decomposers and explain how plants can use energy and matter to create their own food. Next, in Experience 2, students describe the cycling of matter and the flow of energy through food webs. Finally, in Experience 3, students use fossil evidence to identify and describe past environments.

The main content TEKS covered in this topic are:

- 4.12A: Investigate and explain how most producers can make their own food using sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide through the cycling of matter.
- 4.12B: Describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy through food webs, including the roles of the Sun, producers, consumers, and decomposers.
- 4.12C: Identify and describe past environments based on fossil evidence, including common Texas fossils.

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

- 4.1E: Collect observations as evidence.
- 4.3A: Develop explanations supported by models.
- 4.3C: Listen actively to others’ explanations to identify relevant evidence and engage respectfully in scientific discussion.
- 4.5B: Identify and investigate cause-and-effect relationships to explain scientific phenomena or analyze problems.

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.