

SAAVAS Topic 6 School to Home Letter

Dear Family Member or Caregiver,

In the Topic “Interactions in Ecosystems”, students learn about patterns, cycles, systems, and relationships within environments and ecosystems. The experiences in this topic are:

- Experience 1: Organisms in Ecosystems
- Experience 2: Energy in Ecosystems
- Experience 3: Human Impact on Ecosystems

First, in Experience 1, students describe how organisms survive by interacting with biotic and abiotic factors in a healthy ecosystem. Then, in Experience 2, students explain and predict how changes in an ecosystem can affect the cycling of matter and the flow of energy in a food web. Finally, in Experience 3, students describe a healthy ecosystem and explain how human activities can be beneficial or harmful to an ecosystem.

The main content TEKS covered in this topic are:

- 5.12A: Observe and describe how a variety of organisms survive by interacting with biotic and abiotic factors in a healthy ecosystem.
- 5.12B: Predict how changes in the ecosystem affect the cycling of matter and flow of energy in a food web.
- 5.12C: Describe a healthy ecosystem and how human activities can be beneficial or harmful to an ecosystem.

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

- 5.1G: Develop and use models to represent phenomena and processes or design a prototype for a solution to a problem.
- 5.3C: Listen actively to others’ explanations to identify relevant evidence and engage respectfully in scientific discussion.
- 5.5E: Investigate how energy flows and matter cycles through systems.
- 5.5G: Explain how factors or conditions impact stability and change in 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.