

A Next Generation Science Standards-Aligned Activity Guide for

# IN THE FOREST



## TERMS TO REMEMBER:

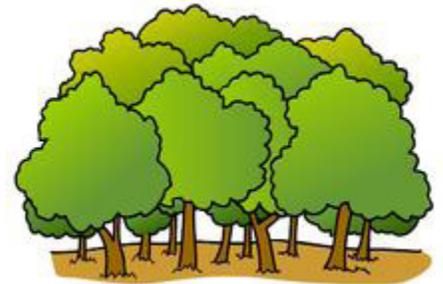
- A **forest** is a large area covered chiefly with trees and undergrowth.
- A **habitat** is the natural home or environment of plants and animals.
- An **ecosystem** includes all of the living things in a given area. Ecosystems are created by the connections and interaction with the living things and non-living things; such as weather, earth, sun, soil, and climate.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- The forest is an ecosystem. It is home to a large number of plants and animals. Describe how the weather effects the trees and the creatures that live among them. Determine the importance of water to forest life.
- Forests contain many different types of trees. Some lose their leaves in autumn and some stay green all year long. Consider how the different types of trees create unique habitats for the plants and animals that live in the forest.
- Plants get nourishment through their leaves. They absorb sunlight and water. Without leaves trees could not grow. Discuss what might happen to the habitat if leaves were not able get the sunshine and nourishment neede to grow.
- Birds connect with the ecosystem by making homes in trees. They gather sticks and leaves to make their nests. Tell how other animals of the forest make their homes in the forest. Consider how all of the living and non-living things work together to create an ecosystem in the forest.

## ACTIVITIES:

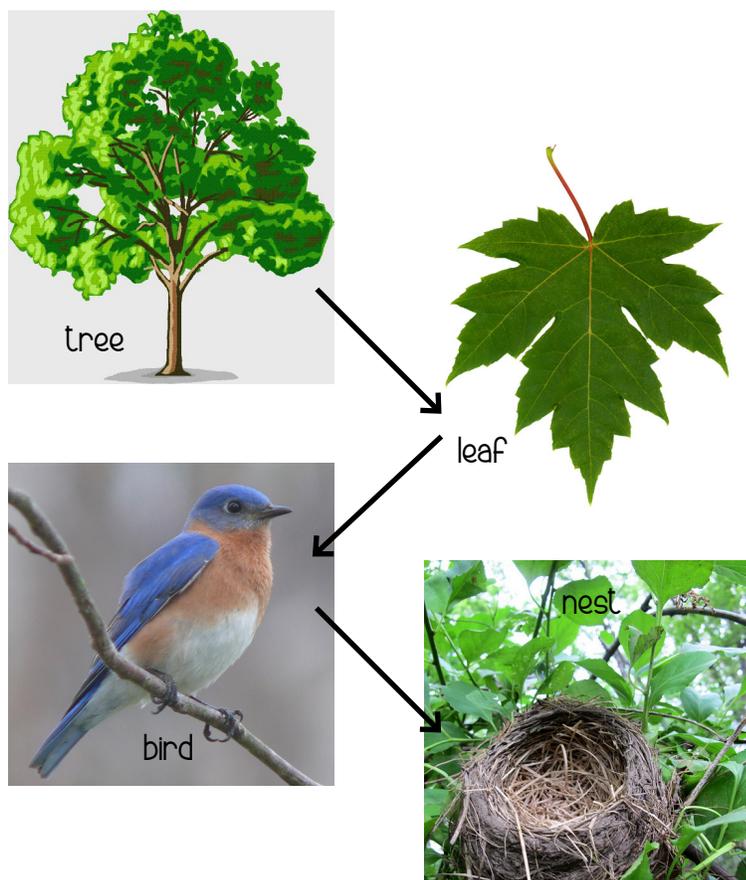
- Illustrate examples of the forest as a **habitat**. Draw the types of homes different animals create in the forest. Write a short description of the types of natural materials the animals need to create to survive in the forest.
- Draw a picture showing how an **ecosystem** works together. Show how the sun and rain help the trees to grow and the animals to flourish. Illustrate a home created by an animal, showing the natural materials used build it. Write a short story explaining how the plants and animals in the ecosystem relate to one another.



## OBSERVATIONS AND PREDICTIONS:

- Using The Habitat Tree illustrations below, consider how the living things featured support one another in the forest ecosystem.
- Discuss how non-living things such as water and sunshine benefit all living things.
- Determine how the living things represented in the illustrations connect with one another to create a habitat, and ultimately, an ecosystem.

## The Habitat Tree



## JUST FOR FUN!

Gather up a pencil, a notebook, and spend some quiet time in a forest or seated beneath a tree. Become very still. Observe the living and non-living things around you. Make sketches of your observations in your notebook. Describe the habitats of the forest ecosystem around you.

## WRITE A STORY:

- Imagine that you are tree in forest. Describe what the experience of being part of a big forest is like.
- Imagine that you are a leaf. Tell what it feels like to be warmed by the sun. Explore the experience of soaking up rain. Explain the importance of offering shade and protection to other living things.
- Imagine you are a bird in search of a place to build your nest. Explain the process of finding the perfect spot to build your nest. Tell how a bird meets its needs in the forest.

ILLUSTRATE YOUR STORIES  
AND SHARE THEM WITH  
YOUR CLASS.

### NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS EXPLORED:

#### *K. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment*

K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals need to survive.

K-ESS2-2. Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals can change the environment to meet their needs.

K-ESS3-1. Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals and the places they live.

