

Ecology: The Study of Ecosystems

Discussion Guide

Grades 3-5

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Discuss the importance of the study ecology, ecosystems, environment.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about conservation of earth's ecosystems. What are they? Why should we take better care of them? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: ecology, ecosystems, ecologist, environment, species, conservation, pollutants

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What are you learning about the study of ecology and ecosystems?
- Let the illustrations be helpful in understanding all the vocabulary and captions.
- Make a list of 5 ecosystems in the world, listing also other vocabulary related to that ecosystem.

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Using the book explain what can be done to help clean up our rivers, lakes, and oceans. What can human beings do to be less polluting to our waterways?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.