

## Sample Lesson #2

### How does change affect an ecosystem?

Imagine that a fire has burned down a forest. How does this change the forest ecosystem? What happens to plants and animals that live there? Some animals can run or fly. They will leave the area. Some animals burrow underground. They will stay put and survive. Other animals may be too young or slow to escape the danger. They will die.

After the fire, some organisms will return to the ecosystem and do better. Owls eat small animals like mice and snakes. It will be easier for owls to find prey once trees are burned down. Other organisms will move into the area. There will be plenty of open space left by the fire.

Grasses and brush that were not there before will begin to grow. Animals that eat grasses, such as elk or deer, will move into the area. These herbivores (plant-eaters) will attract predators, such as coyotes and mountain lions.



1. The passage describes an event that can change a forest ecosystem. What is the event? \_\_\_\_\_

2. List two changes that the event may cause.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Draw a line through the statement that is not true.

Organisms get what they need in ecosystems.

An ecosystem never changes.

A desert ecosystem is very dry.

A rainforest ecosystem is wet and warm.

4. All living things have behaviors that help them to \_\_\_\_\_.

survive      look alike      hide      swim

5. What do all living things do to make sure their kind continues to live on Earth?

migrate      hibernate      live in groups      reproduce

6. Baby animals have behaviors that help them to survive. Put a check next to these behaviors.

- \_\_\_\_\_ building a nest
- \_\_\_\_\_ curling up to stay warm
- \_\_\_\_\_ crying when it is hungry
- \_\_\_\_\_ staying close to its mother



7. Study the photo. For each trait, put a check in the column to show whether the trait is inherited or learned.

Traits	Inherited	Learned
comes when someone calls his name		
has floppy ears		
catches a toy when someone throws it		
plays fetch with a wooden stick		
sits on a chair		
has brown and tan fur		