

6

Wonderful Ecosystems

Subject Area

The Natural World

Topics & Curriculum Links

types of ecosystem (Science)

plants and animals; classification (Science)

food chains (Science)

parts of the body (Science)

weather and changing climates (Science; Geography)

protecting the environment (Science; Civics)

places and countries (Geography)

dates and events (History)

Vocabulary

plants; animals; parts of the body; places; weather; food; seasons; numbers; measurements; continents

Grammar

present simple; present continuous; past simple; future simple; question forms; imperative; passive; adjectives; prepositions; adverbs

animals are called predators. **2** 1 crickets, desert bats, meerkats **2** scorpions, lizards, hawks, snakes, foxes, meerkats **3** 1 true **2** false **3** true **4** false **5** true **6** true **4** 1 It's an animal that's busy at night and sleeps in the day. **2** Because it's cooler then. **3** They break off the tail first. **4** They hide in burrows. **5** To help them to see at night. **6** So they can hear small animals that they hunt in the dark.

Page 40–41 **1** 1 Grasslands are places with many types of grass and few trees. **2** Grasslands are often found between deserts and forests. **3** Grasses have long roots that go down into the soil and collect water. **4** The leaves of grasses grow from the bottom of the plant, not the top. **2** 1 grasshopper **2** zebra **3** cheetah **4** snake **5** butterfly **6** gazelle **7** rabbit **8** termites **9** kangaroo **10** lion **3** 1 The soil, plants, and animals in grasslands live and work together. **2** When prairie dogs eat tall plants, sunlight can help small plants to grow. **3** Prairie dog droppings add nutrients to the soil. **4** Prairie dog tunnels let air and water into the soil. **4** 1 decomposers **2** nests **3** nutrients **4** plants **5** grassland

Page 42–43 **1** 1 Conifer trees have ~~blue~~ green leaves that look like thin, soft hard spikes. **2** Conifer leaves don't lose as much heat water as flat leaves do. **3** Most conifer trees ~~only have leaves for part of the year.~~ have leaves all year long. **4** It's usually light dark on the forest floor and ~~many~~ few plants grow there. **5** ~~Wolves~~ Birds and squirrels eat seeds from cones that fall from conifer trees. **2** free answers **3** 1 They grow in hot, rainy places. **2** Because they get lots of water, sunlight, and warm air. **3** To help the trees to stand up. **4** They live in the trees. **5** They eat fruit, nuts, and leaves. **4** 1 leaves **2** vole **3** raccoon **4** cougar

Page 44–45 **1** 1 freshwater **2** light **3** roots **4** long **2** 1 Fish are perfectly adapted to living underwater. **2** Fish have gills that get oxygen from the water. **3** Fish have tail fins to help them to swim. **4** Many fish feed on insects and other minibeasts. **5** Some large fish catch and eat other fish. **6** Nutrients from dead animals go back into the freshwater ecosystem. **3** 1 freshwater **2** hatch **3** become **4** insects **5** young **6** adults **7** water **8** beetle **9** swims The secret word is ecosystem. **4** free answers

Page 46–47 **1** 1 Ocean ecosystems are ~~not~~ very important. **2** The coast is the area of ~~water~~ land next to an ocean. **3** Water moves onto a beach and goes out again because of the ~~seaweed~~ tides. **4** Some animals have ~~hats~~ shells that protect them from predators. **2** 1 Coral reefs grow near coasts in cold places. False Corals are soft plants that have a hard skeleton. False After they die, coral skeletons become a coral reef. True **4** Some coral reefs are more than 50 million years old! True **3** 1 At the Top of the Ocean – plankton, shrimps In Deep Water firefly squid, blue whale, anglerfish **4** 1 Tiny plants called plant plankton. **2** Tiny animals, like shrimps. **3** Larger fish, like mackerel. **4** Even larger fish like tuna, or dolphins. **5** The great white shark. **6** Because there's no light there.

Page 48–49 **1** 1 Frozen ecosystems in polar areas are cold and ~~wet~~ dry. **2** Tundra ecosystems near the ~~South~~ North Pole are places that have long, cold winters. **3** Polar bears grow very ~~thin~~ fat in fall and then they hibernate. **4** Seals have ~~arms~~ flippers to help them to swim under the ice. **2** 1 plant plankton **2** shrimp **3** seal **4** polar bear **3** 1 never **2** summer **3** small **4** start **4** 1 true **2** false **3** false **4** true **5** true **5** free answers

Page 50–51 **1** 1 When people change one part of an ecosystem, they can damage other parts of it. **2** People cut down trees for wood, and they clear grassland to build homes. **3** Without plants to use for homes and food, animals in an ecosystem move away or die. **4** Oil pollution is dangerous for ocean ecosystems. **2** 1 They damage ocean food chains. **2** They can kill animals that already live there. **3** It's the way temperatures on Earth are slowly becoming warmer. **4** Because gases from factories, cars, and machines are changing Earth's atmosphere. **5** When oceans get too warm, corals slowly die. **3** 1 Many species of animal will die if we destroy coral reefs. **2** Rainforest plants give people food, medicines, and oxygen. **3** Conservation groups help ecosystems around the world. **4** Some rainforests have guards to stop people cutting down trees. **5** There are areas of water where fisherman can't go fishing. **4** free answers

Teaching Ideas

See also [pages 6–7](#) for general ideas that you can adapt. Or go to www.oup.com/elt/teacher/readanddiscover

READ & TALK Guess the Ecosystem

Choose one of the ecosystems from the Reader, and without saying its name, read out one sentence about it and ask students to guess which ecosystem it is. Read out more sentences, one at a time, until students guess the correct ecosystem. You can use a point scoring system, for example, five points after one fact, three points after two facts, etc. Students can then do this in small groups.

READ & TALK A New Ecosystem Presentation

After completing Project 2, students present their new ecosystem to the rest of the class. They can describe the ecosystem, or other students can ask the questions on page 53 of the Reader.

Ecosystems in My Country

Using books or the Internet, students do research about different ecosystems in their country. They can write about the climate and geographical features, and about what plants and animals live in the ecosystems, and how they adapt to living there. They can also draw food chains.

Activities Answers

Page 36–37 **1** 1 living **2** animals **3** air **4** ecosystem **5** sunlight **6** decomposers **2** 11 grass **2** grasshopper **3** snake **4** buzzard **3** 1 different sizes **2** an ocean **3** a pond **4** different **4** 1 Because bamboo is the only food that they eat. **2** Yes, they can. **3** They have long arms and legs for climbing trees in a forest. **4** They have thick fur to keep them warm. **5** free answers

Page 38–39 **1** 1 A desert is a place that's very ~~wet~~ dry. **2** A hot desert is ~~an easy~~ a difficult place to live in. **3** ~~No~~ Some plants or animals are adapted to desert ecosystems. **4** Cactus plant stems become ~~thin~~ fat when they are full of water. **5** Desert food chains start with ~~animals~~ plants. **6** Animals that hunt and eat ~~plants~~ other