



DHOLE CONSERVATION FUND
PRESENTS



Ecosystem

<http://www.dholes.org/education>



Ecosystem

Overview

Objective: Students will be able to know what an ecosystem is and what the Dhole's role is within the ecosystem. Students will understand what abiotic and biotic factors are and the role they have in ecosystems. Students will also understand the various roles organisms have in ecosystems (carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, decomposer).

Students will know/do: Students will work in small groups to answer questions, watch a PowerPoint presentation, and participate in class discussions.

Materials needed: Whiteboard, dry erase markers, PowerPoint Presentation (provided).



Ecosystem

Agenda

1. Students will enter the classroom and get seated. Educator will introduce himself or herself, and explain what the program will entail (2-3 minutes).
2. Introduction activity: Ask students what an ecosystem is. Write their responses on the whiteboard. (5-10 minutes)
 - a. Key points to focus on an ecosystem is the living organisms and the non-living components and their interactions within the ecosystem.
 - b. Ask students to provide examples of ecosystems and the organisms they may find within them.
3. Begin PowerPoint presentation: (5 minutes)
 - a. Powerpoint will answer the questions of what an ecosystem is as well as provide various examples. Students will determine what they see in the ecosystems in the pictures.
 - b. Be sure that students understand that ecosystems also involve the non-living interactions!
4. Explain the difference between abiotic and biotic factors. List on the board the difference between the two and examples that the students can list. (5 minutes)
 - a. Ex: Biotic- living components such as animals, plants, and dead organisms.
 - b. Abiotic- non-living components such as sunlight, water, burrows
 - c. Ask students how they would interact with one another.
5. Continue with the PowerPoint and discuss with students the difference between an autotroph and a heterotroph. (5-10 minutes)
 - a. How do these organisms get the energy they need?
 - b. How do these organisms interact with one another?
 - c. Ask students to review the roles in an ecosystem ex: herbivore, carnivore, decomposer, omnivores, detritovore. Explain them on the board.
 - d. Show an example of an ecosystem on the PowerPoint and discuss the roles in the ecosystem and how they are important to the continued survival of the ecosystem.
6. Show an ecosystem with a dhole and ask students where they think that the dhole would fall in classification of the above terms. (15-20 minutes)
 - a. Discuss the roles of all of the organisms in the picture. Provide facts on the organisms displayed.
 - b. Ask students what would happen if an organism in the ecosystem were removed. Explain how all portions of the ecosystem play a role and what would happen if dholes were removed
7. Cover any last minute questions or thoughts. Say good bye and help the students clean up/leave.