

Name of Lesson: Ecosystem Diorama

Grade Level: 2nd or 3rd

Content area: Life Sciences

Standard identifiers: 2-LS2-1; 3-LS3-1

Objectives: Students will:

- Demonstrate understanding of ecosystems and biomes by:
 1. Watching one or two videos to introduce them to various ecosystems and biomes
 2. Independently researching one ecosystem or biome
 3. Creating a diorama to reflect their research
 4. Present a short dialogue on what they learned about the ecosystem or biome they researched

Assessment (informal):

- Students research an ecosystem or biome, create a diorama to show the flora and fauna of the ecosystem or biome, and deliver a short oral presentation about what they learned through the project.

Strategies for English Language Learners and Learners with Special Needs:

- Have students do research in their native language.
- Assign students an ecosystem or biome and provide accessible, appropriate resources.
- Introduce key vocabulary before watching videos.

Materials and Resources:

- [MVC's Virtual Learning Module #3: Stay "Safe at Home" in a Mediterranean Climate Ecosystem](#)
- [Introduction to Biomes Video in Spanish](#)
- [Ecosystem or Biome Diorama Project Directions and Rubric](#) (adapted from Monroe, NJ K12 resource)

Instructional Sequence:

Introduction and explanation to students about the purpose of the lesson (5 minutes)

- Ask students to describe the weather where they are, for that day and in general. Explain that our weather, hot dry summers and mild wet winters, are a characteristic of Mediterranean climates. You can show them the map of Mediterranean climates found on the [MVC's Virtual Learning Module #3: Stay "Safe at Home" in a Mediterranean Climate Ecosystem](#) webpage. Explain that there are several types of ecosystems in the world, and that you will learn more about them by doing a project.

Teacher modeling (15-25 minutes)

- Watch one or both of the videos about ecosystems on the [MVC's Virtual Learning Module #3: Stay "Safe at Home" in a Mediterranean Climate Ecosystem](#) webpage ([Ecosystems for Kids](#) and

[Biomes of the World for Children](#)). [Here is a video for Spanish speakers](#). Have students think about what ecosystem or biome they find most fascinating and would want to research further.

Practice (independent) (15 minutes to explain the project; due date is teacher's choice)

- Provide the directions and rubric for students to complete their ecosystem/biome diorama. Give them ideas of where they can do their own research on their ecosystem or biome (school or public library, internet with adult supervision).
- [Ecosystem or Biome Diorama Project Directions and Rubric](#)

Monitoring for student learning/understanding:

- Ask students before they begin their research what ecosystem or biome they are going to research.
- Ask what resources they are using to do their research and provide suggestions or resources.
- Show students examples of dioramas.
- Provide time in class for students to do research or work on their projects.

Reflection after the lesson:

Your notes: _____
