Explore an Ecosystem

(Part 1)

**Directions:**

1. Review the definition of an ecosystem below. Remember that an ecosystem can be large or small, look at some of the examples listed below. Go outside to observe an ecosystem. You might think of a walk or nature area that you have observed recently. Draw the ecosystem on a piece of paper; use coloring supplies. You could also choose to build an ecosystem out of household materials (construction paper, modeling clay, etc.). **Do not go out to buy anything; only use things already available in your home.**
2. Label all the parts to your ecosystem, both living and non-living. Be as detailed as possible. If you are unsure, try to learn about the organisms that you are labeling. Look up information to learn about the organisms in your ecosystem.

Ecosystem:

* An area in which living and non-living things interact with each other and their environment.
* A community of organisms that live in a particular area, along with their non-living surroundings.
* Examples of Larger Ecosystems: Desert, Pond, Forest, Marsh, or Tundra
* Examples of Smaller Ecosystems: Oak Tree with Nest of Birds, Tulip Patch with Bees, Ants on a Rotting Log, Garden, or Nature Trail