Explore an Ecosystem

(Part 2)

**Directions:** Using your drawing or model of the ecosystem that you created in Part 1, answer the following questions about your ecosystem. Answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper. These answers should relate to topics covered in this unit. You may not have answers to all the questions in your ecosystem drawing/model; that is okay. Just answer the questions that relate to your ecosystem. These questions help to summarize many of the big ideas learned in the unit.

1. Write down and identify all the producers, consumers, and decomposers in your ecosystem. (Examples: Robin-Consumer or Moss-Producer)
2. How do you think the different organisms get energy in your ecosystem? (Examples: Moss-gets energy from the sun or Robin-get energy from eating worms)
3. What are the abiotic factors in your ecosystem? (Examples: Soil, Water)
4. Identify any interactions among organisms (predation, symbiosis, or competition) in your ecosystem. Just identify the interactions that you observed in your ecosystem.Look at the examples below to help review.

**Predation Example:** The Robins are eating worms.

**Symbiosis Example:** The butterflies are drinking nectar from the tulips, the tulips are getting pollinated in return.

**Competition Example:** Both a robin and sparrow are competing to eat the worms in the ecosystem.

1. Do you notice anything interesting about any of the populations in your ecosystem?

 **Example:** On a recent family walk, we noticed a high population of goldfish in a pond ecosystem. We thought the goldfish had many resources in the area and a lack of predators (larger fish) in the pond.

1. Do you notice any negative impacts (trash, water pollution, etc.) in your ecosystem?

**Example:** On a recent family walk on a nature trail, we noticed garbage covering some of the plants. The garbage blocked the sun and their ability to grow properly.