

## Focus on: Organisms

This lesson is meant to support the unit on Ecosystems. It can be used as a pre and post assessment to the unit.

### Clarifying Objectives:

1.L.1.1 Recognize that plants and animals need air, water, light (plants only), space, food and shelter and that these may be found in their environment.)

1.L.2.1 Summarize the basic needs of a variety of different plants (including air, water, nutrients, and light) for energy and growth.

1.L.2.2 Summarize the basic needs of a variety of different animals (including air, water, and food) for energy and growth.

### Key Vocabulary:

Definitions can be found at <http://learnersdictionary.com>

- Recognize
- Plants
- Animals
- Air
- Water
- Light
- Space
- Food/ Nutrients
- Shelter
- Environment
- Summarize
- Basic Needs
- Energy
- Growth

### Focus Question(s):

What is an organism?

### Materials:

- School Garden
- Science Notebooks

### Activities:

1. Take students to the school garden with their science notebooks.
2. Tell students they are going to be scientists and as scientists, they have a VERY important job. They have to find an organism and sketch it. Then they have to write down everything it needs. (Organism is a word that children may not know. That is ok. Encourage them to be scientists and try to figure out what an organisms is. Reassure them that it is ok to guess and to be wrong

### Guiding Questions:

- What did you find that you think is an organism?
- What does it need to live and be healthy?
- Why do you think it is an organism?
- Are plants and animals both

<p>because you have not taught it to them yet.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Have students sketch an organism and what it needs.</li><li>4. Gather children to a meeting area to discuss their findings. After students share, allow to return to the garden to sketch a different item.</li><li>5. Discuss Guiding Questions.</li><li>6. Answer the Focus Question: <i>What is an organism?</i></li><li>7. Repeat this lesson at the end of the unit.</li><li>8. Play this End of Unit Science Quest quiz game: <a href="http://lightupeducation.com/organismgames.html">http://lightupeducation.com/organismgames.html</a></li></ol>	<p>organisms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How are all plants and animals the same?</li><li>• In what ways are plants and animals different from each other?</li><li>• In what ways are all animals different from plants? How are plants different from animals?</li><li>• Is the planter an organism? Why or why not?</li><li>• Is a rock an organism? Why or why not?</li><li>• What else would you like to learn about organisms?</li></ul>
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