

Recreate a Natural System in Minnesota!

Minnesota has a diverse range of plants and animals. You are going to research and recreate a natural system in your home state!

Purpose

To learn about the natural systems where you live.¹

Instructions

1. Pick an area of Minnesota you want to focus on. To narrow it down, first choose a biome. Your options are:
 - a. Deciduous Forest
 - b. Coniferous Forest
 - c. Prairie Grassland
 - d. Tallgrass Aspen Parkland



If you choose one of the bigger biomes (all but Tallgrass Aspen Parkland) narrow down your area further. For example, do you want to do the Northern or Southern Prairie? Once you decide, fill in your sheet.

2. Start to research the wildlife and climate in your area. What trees and flowers grow there? What mammals, insects, bird, amphibians and reptiles populate your area (see animal example sheet)? What is the weather like? Hot, cold, dry, wet? How does it vary seasonally? Fill in your sheet when you are ready.

During your research, pay attention to the **interactions** between the living creatures in your area. What eats what?

3. According to teacher instructions – create an art project featuring the living and non-living features of your area.

Write 3-4 paragraphs describing the plants and animals in your environment, the non-living features in your environment and the interactions between all the elements.

4. Upload pictures of your project!

¹ Photo of Quarry Park and Nature Preserve, St. Cloud, Minnesota by Tony Webster / CC BY-SA 2.0 via [Wikimedia](#)

Preparation for My Minnesota Environment Project

Biomes

- [Information on Biomes](#)

Animals

- [Minnesota Animals](#)

Insects

- [Insert Identification - Minnesota](#)
- [Garden Insects in Minnesota](#)

Minnesota Plants

- [Minnesota DNR: Plants](#)
- [Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
- [Minnesota Prairies](#)
- [Tallgrass Aspen Parkland](#)

1. What biome did you pick?
2. Did you pick a certain region (northern, southern etc) of your biome?
3. What is the climate or weather in your biome?
4. What are some animals that live in your biome?
5. What kind of trees and plants are in your biome?
6. What kinds of **interactions** occur in your biome?

Report for My Minnesota Environment Project

Below, write 3-4 paragraphs on your environment. Describe the living and non-living elements, and the interactions between them.

Animal Examples

Below is a list of examples of animals in each biome. But this is far from covering all the animals! Research to learn more.

Coniferous Forest

American (Pine) marten
Badger
Beaver
Blackbear
Bobcat
Canada Lynx – north coniferous forest
Coyote
Fisher
Grey Fox – south coniferous forest
Red Fox
Heather Vole – east coniferous forest
Northern bog lemming – west coniferous forest
Eastern Cottontail – but not in more northern regions
Snowshoe hare
Mink
Moose – eastern coniferous forest
Porcupine
Striped Skunk
White-tailed deer
Bald Eagle
Eastern bluebird
Broad-winged hawk
Red-tailed hawk
Great grey owl – north coniferous forest
Northern Saw-whet owl
Snowy Owl – north coniferous forest
Sandhill crane – west coniferous forest
American Toad
Deciduous Forest Example Animals
Black bear – north deciduous forest
Gray fox

Red fox
Plains pocket mouse – south deciduous forest
Eastern cottontail – but not in most northern part
Snowshoe hare – northern deciduous forest
White-tailed jack rabbit
Mink
Moose – north deciduous forest
Porcupine – eastern and northern deciduous forest
Striped skunk
White-tailed deer
Bald eagle
Eastern bluebird
Broad-winged hawk
Red-tailed hawk
Barn owl – south deciduous forest
Wild turkey – south deciduous forest
American Toad
Brown snake – most of the region
Plains garter snake

Tallgrass Aspen Parkland

American (Pine) marten
Badger
Beaver
Black bear
Bobcat
Fisher
Grey fox – west
Red fox
Northern bog lemming
Snowshoe hare
Moose
Porcupine
Striped skunk
White-tailed deer
Bald eagle
Eastern bluebird
Broad-winged hawk
Red-tailed dove
Northern Saw-whet owl
Snowy owl – north
Sandhill crane
American toad
Plains garter snake

Prairie Grasslands

Badger
Beaver
Fisher – northern prairie
Grey fox
Red fox
Snowshoe hare – northern prairie
White-tailed jack rabbit
Mink
Moose – northern prairie
Striped skunk
White-tailed deer
Bald eagle
Ferruginous hawk – western prairie
Red-tailed dove
Barn owl – south prairie
Northern saw-whet owl – northern prairie
Snowy owl – northern prairie
Ring-necked pheasant – southern prairie
Sandhill crane – central to northern prairie
Wild turkey – south prairie
American toad
Plains garter snake

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