

# Interactive Digital Nature Exploration for Grades 5+

## Ecology theme: Food Web!!!

### *Teacher's Guide for the Virtual Field Environment (VFE)*

Location: Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Updated Spring 2025

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## What is a VFE?

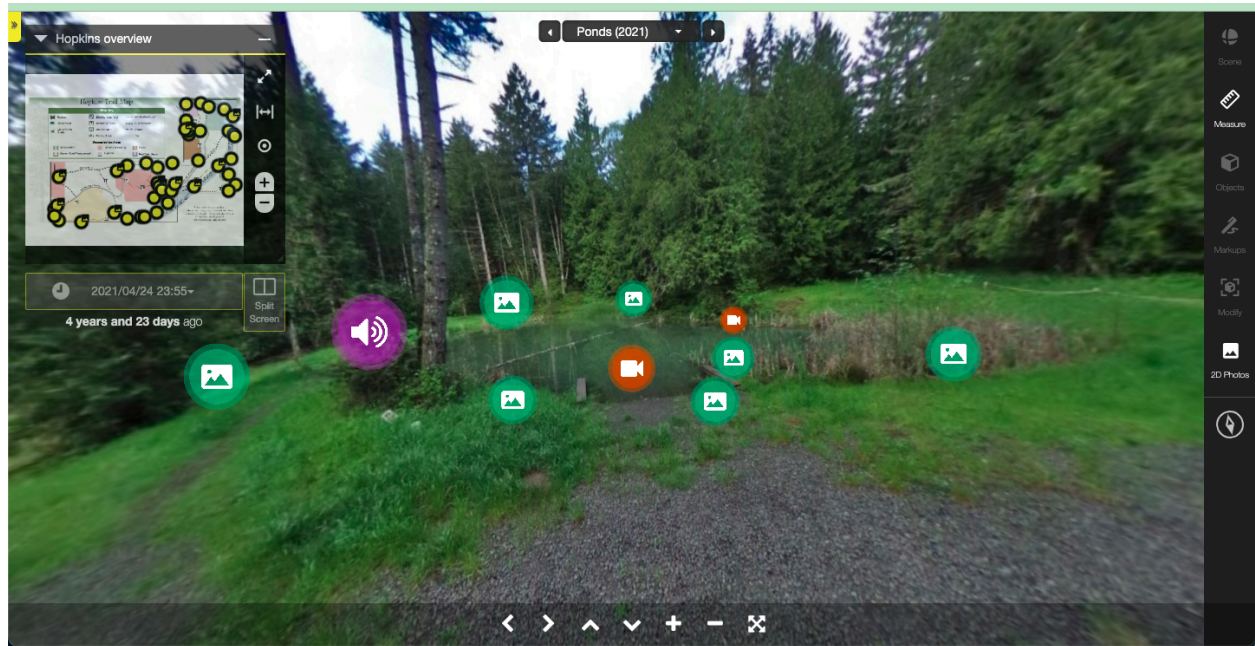
A **Virtual Field Environment (VFE)** is an **interactive digital simulation** of a real outdoor location.

This VFE showcases **Hopkins Demonstration Forest** in Oregon. It helps students learn science through **inquiry-based exploration** when they can't attend in-person field trips.

 **Access it here:** [Holobuilder VFE](#)

 **Watch a 1 minute video tutorial:** [Here](#)

What it looks like:



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## How to Use the VFE (Quick Start)

### 1. Click the VFE Link

- Loads in Holobuilder, no login needed.

## 2. Navigate Scenes

- Use the **sidebar** dropdown menu; each yellow circle is a 360° scene.
- Some scenes are grouped into topics; select a topic grouping (like “Food web VFE Fall 2020) from the **center dropdown menu**.
- Or follow **blue arrows** through trails.

## 3. Explore Content

- **Photos** of plants & animals
- **Purple icons** = audio guides
- Videos & external learning links
- “Who was here?” = inquiry prompts

## 4. Encourage Student Exploration

- Let students explore solo or in pairs.
- Ask: *What do you notice? What do you wonder?*

## 5. Audio Tip!

- Ambient forest sounds **auto-play**
- Pause ambient audio to hear video or voice
- Find purple audio icon overhead (look up!)

## 6. Have Fun!

Inquiry is the goal—there are no “right” answers.

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## Teaching Tips

- Use as a launch point for class discussion
- Print or share a worksheet: “What did you discover?”
- Great for substitute teachers or asynchronous days

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## Aligned Standards

This tool supports **5th Grade NGSS Science**:

- **5-PS3**: Energy [LINK](#)
- **5-LS1**: Structures & Processes [LINK](#)
- **5-LS2**: Ecosystems & Interactions [LINK](#)