



# Ecology

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## What is it?

- Ecology is the study of organisms and how they interact with their environment and other organisms.
  - Some animals live in holes that they dig in dirt, some bugs live under rocks, some animals and bugs live in trees and plants, plants require certain amounts of sunlight and water.
  - Some organisms eat plants and some eat bugs and animals.

## How does this help me?

- Understanding ecology can help keep the outdoors fun and interesting for everyone.
  - Making sure to follow guidelines set by ecologists will ensure:
    - fishing doesn't destroy fish populations

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- Hunting doesn't destroy game animal populations
  - Gathering flowers won't ruin ecosystems
  - Hiking won't disrupt habitats of native animals
- Humans are also dependent on their environment and other organisms.
    - Understanding the environment will help you know how to dress each day, whether you should wear a lot of thick layers or only one layer of breathable clothing.

## What can I do to improve the environment?

- Each person can take steps to not harm the environment
  - Don't litter
  - When possible, recycle
  - When doing activities in the outdoors, make sure to not leave the trail if there is one
  - Don't bring anything to an outdoor activity if you do not plan to take it with you when you leave
  - Don't leave the water running when brushing teeth or performing any other hygiene activity
- Each person can take steps to improve the environment
  - If you see trash on the ground, pick it up and take it to a garbage can or recycling bin
  - When you are not in a room, make sure the lights in that room are off
  - Take short showers instead of long ones
  - Turning the car off when waiting for something or someone, or when you are not driving