

## Section 3

# Ecosystems and Habitats

Many forms of life call Earth home. All living things must share our planet's resources, such as food, water, air and living space. Consequently, we are all connected in complex ways. Ecology is the study of how living things and their environment affect each other.

Environments are as diverse as the living things that inhabit them. All living and nonliving things that exist together in an environment is called an ecosystem. Earth's largest ecosystem is the biosphere, which is the entire region of Earth where all living things can be found. To study the biosphere, scientists divided it into smaller ecosystems called biomes.

This section on ecosystems and habitats presents critical thinking questions for students to search the Internet for answers.

Websites for whole class instruction:

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/media/why-ocean-matters/>

<http://disney.go.com/disneynature/oceans/>

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/topics/ecosystems/>

<http://study.com/academy/lesson/food-chains-trophic-levels-and-energy-flow-in-an-ecosystem.html>

