



Basic Needs of Organisms



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Dear Family,

Our class is studying about organisms and their basic needs. Your child is learning how the external characteristics of organisms help them live in their habitat and that organisms are classified into three groups: producers, consumers, and decomposers.

Your child is also learning many new vocabulary words that describe the needs of organisms. Help your child to make these words a part of his or her own vocabulary by using them when you talk together about organisms.

WORD

DEFINITION

interact	to affect each other, or cause change to each other
organism	a living thing; such as plants and animals
habitat	the place where an animal or plant lives and grows
ecosystem	all of the living and nonliving things that interact with each other in an environment or habitat
producer	an organism that gets energy by making their own food
consumer	an organism that gets energy by eating other organisms
decomposer	an organism that gets energy by breaking down dead materials and waste
food chain	a path, or transfer of energy from one organism to another
food web	interacting food chains that show how energy is transferred between organisms in an ecosystem

The following pages include activities that you and your child can do together. By participating in your child's education, you will help to bring the learning home.

Vocabulary Practice

Write the vocabulary word that completes each sentence. Then use the numbered letters to find the puzzle answer.

- An 1 _____ includes all of the living and non-living things in an area.
- The place where an organism lives is its 3 4 _____.
- People eat other organisms for energy, so we are _____ 2 _____.
- Mushrooms break down dead materials and waste, so they are _____.

I have a shell as an external characteristic. I am a 1 2 3 4 _____.

Fun Fact

The tentacles of the giant Arctic jellyfish can reach 120 feet (36.6 meters) in length.

How do you think this external characteristic helps the jellyfish meet its basic needs?



Answers: 1. ecosystem, 2. habitat, 3. consumers, 4. decomposers. Puzzle Answer: crab

Helper's Signature _____

Helpers, please rate the activities in this booklet:

1-poor 2-needs improvement 3-good 4-excellent
(Please circle one number on each line.)

My child's performance on these activities was: 1 2 3 4
The quality of these activities was: 1 2 3 4

Once you have completed all the activities and experiments, complete this section, cut along the dotted line, and return it to your teacher.

Student's Name: _____

I worked with my _____ on _____
(ex: mom, aunt, brother, guardian)

