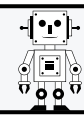
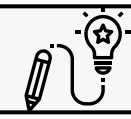
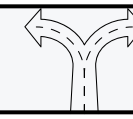
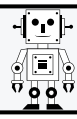
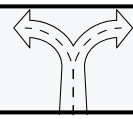
Connections in Nature Menu

Directions: Take a look at the different ways you can explore the **connections among organisms and their environment** on the choice board. Choose the ONE activity that you think will best help you show what you've learned and that you will enjoy working on!

Ask and Investigate 	**Model It!** 	**Be a Data Detective** 
Come up with a question about how organisms interact with each other or their environment. Plan a simple way to explore your question.	Create a model to show one way that organisms in an ecosystem interact with each other or with a non-living part of their environment.	Research a specific ecosystem and identify different ways the organisms there interact with each other and with the non-living parts of their environment. Present your findings.
Math Connections! 	**Explain It!** 	**Solve a Problem!** 
Look for examples of how numbers or measurements can be used to describe the interactions between organisms or between organisms and their environment. Explain what these numbers tell us.	Describe different ways that organisms interact with each other. Also, explain how living things depend on the non-living parts of their environment.	Think about a change in the environment. How might this affect the interactions between the organisms living there?
Tell a Story! 	**Create a Visual!** 	**Be the Teacher!** 
Write a short story about two different organisms in an ecosystem and how they affect each other or how one of them is affected by a change in the environment.	Create a visual that illustrates different types of interactions between organisms or the relationship between living things and a specific non-living resource.	Explain to someone how two different organisms in an ecosystem help or harm each other. Give specific examples.

Nature's Web: Interconnected Ideas!

Explore the many ways organisms connect with each other and their surroundings with these starting points. Remember, you can always come up with your own amazing projects too!

Ask and Investigate 	**Model It!** 	**Be a Data Detective** 
1. How do predators help control the populations of their prey? 2. Can two different organisms live together and both benefit? How?	1. Create a model to show how a predator's adaptations (like sharp claws) help it catch prey. 2. Use different materials to represent two organisms in a symbiotic relationship (like a clownfish and a sea anemone) and explain how they interact.	1. Research a specific predator and its prey. How does the population size of the predator affect the population size of the prey, and vice versa? 2. Find an example of a mutualistic symbiotic relationship and describe how both organisms benefit.
Math Connections! 	**Explain It!** 	**Solve a Problem!** 
1. How long does a predator (like a fox) live compared to its prey (like a rabbit)? What does this show? 2. How many flowers might a bee visit in a day? How does this number show its importance to plants?	1. Explain how camouflage helps a prey animal avoid predators. 2. Describe two different types of symbiotic relationships and give an example of each.	1. What might happen to an ecosystem if a key predator is removed? How would this affect the prey and other organisms? 2. If a parasite harms its host but doesn't kill it, how might this affect the host's ability to survive and reproduce?
Tell a Story! 	**Create a Visual!** 	**Be the Teacher!** 
1. Write a short story from the perspective of either a predator or its prey, describing a hunt or an encounter. 2. Create a short play with dialogue between two organisms in a symbiotic relationship.	1. Draw a diagram showing how different organisms in an ecosystem might compete for the same resource (like food or water). 2. Create a chart that lists different ways organisms interact (e.g., mutualism, competition) and gives a real-world example of each.	1. Explain to someone how two different animals might help each other survive. 2. Show examples of how living things change their environment (e.g., beavers building dams, earthworms digging tunnels).