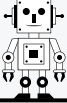
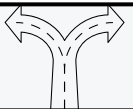


Kinds of Ecosystems Menu

Directions: Take a look at the different ways you can explore different **kinds of ecosystems** 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 different kinds of ecosystems. Plan a simple way to explore your question.	Create a model to represent the key components of a specific ecosystem. Explain the living and non-living parts in your model.	Research and compare two different kinds of ecosystems. What are their main characteristics, and what types of organisms live there?
Math Connections! 	Explain It! 	Solve a Problem! 
Look for examples of how numbers or measurements are used to describe ecosystems. Show what these numbers tell us about the ecosystem.	Describe three different kinds of ecosystems and explain what makes each one unique. Include examples of the plants and animals that live there.	Think about a change that could happen in a specific ecosystem. How might this affect the organisms living there?
Tell a Story! 	Create a Visual! 	Be the Teacher! 
Write a short story that features a specific ecosystem. The story should give the reader a sense of what this place is like.	Create a visual that shows the different kinds of ecosystems found in a specific region. Label the key characteristics of each.	Explain to someone the difference between a terrestrial ecosystem and an aquatic ecosystem. Give examples of each.

Ecosystem Explorers: Habitat Ideas!

Discover the amazing variety of ecosystems on our planet 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. Why are some places on Earth very wet and others very dry? How does this affect the ecosystems there? 2. Do you think the plants and animals in a forest are the same as those in a desert? Why or why not?	1. Use a shoebox to create a diorama of a pond ecosystem, including plants, animals, and water. 2. Build a small-scale model of a grassland ecosystem, showing the different layers of vegetation.	1. Research the average yearly rainfall in a rainforest and a desert. How different are they? 2. Find out the typical temperature range in a polar tundra ecosystem.
Math Connections! 	Explain It! 	Solve a Problem! 
1. What's the average yearly rainfall in a desert? What does that number tell you about the plants and animals there? 2. Find the typical temperature range in a rainforest. How does that range support the variety of life?	1. What are the main differences between a forest and a grassland ecosystem? 2. What makes a saltwater ecosystem different from a freshwater ecosystem?	1. How might building a road through a forest affect the ecosystem? 2. What challenges do organisms face living in a very hot desert ecosystem?
Tell a Story! 	Create a Visual! 	Be the Teacher! 
1. Write a story that makes the reader feel like they are walking through a dense rainforest. 2. Tell a story that describes the stark beauty and challenges of living in a desert ecosystem.	1. Draw a map showing the major types of ecosystems found in North America. 2. Create a poster comparing the climate and common organisms of two different ecosystems.	1. Explain to someone what makes a coral reef a unique kind of ecosystem. 2. Show pictures of different ecosystems and have someone guess what the climate might be like there.