

## **Ecosystem Observation Activity**

“Man, however much he may like to pretend, is part of nature.” -- Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

### **Purpose and Background**

Today's activity ask you to make various observations of the world around you. Attempt to be a “sponge” for details... try to observe things you've never noticed before. Answer the questions below...

### **Observations**

#### **1. Make descriptive, sensory observations about the ABIOTIC (non-living) FACTORS.**

- a. How strong is the wind? What does it sound like? Where is it coming from?
- b. How does the water look, sound and smell like? What color is it?
- c. What is the relative temperature?
- d. Look at the soil and the rocks
  - i. Physical description - color, texture, size, shape
  - ii. How does the soil feel - sandy, claylike, moist and dry?
  - iii. How do the rocks feel?

#### **2. Make descriptive, sensory observations about the BIOTIC (living) FACTORS.**

- a. Make observations about ANY two animals. Describe their characteristics and their environment in detail.
- b. Make observations about a single tree, shrub or other plant. Describe their characteristics and their environment in detail.
- c. How do the biotic factors interact with the abiotic factors of an ecosystem?

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