

Nature's Teamwork

A learning guide to connected ecosystems

Many plants, animals, and people depend on one another in surprising ways. Explore your neighborhood or backyard to discover how living things work together—and how you can help keep nature connected.

Ages 5-10



1 Nature Connection Hunt

Go outside and search for partnerships in nature.

Visit a park, yard, or neighborhood and look for examples of living things helping each other. Can you find bees visiting flowers, birds eating berries, mushrooms growing on logs, squirrels carrying acorns, or vines climbing trees? Draw or photograph your discoveries.

2 Ecosystem Web

Discover how everything is connected.

Choose one plant or animal from outside (or one you know well). On a piece of paper, draw it in the center and add everything it depends on—sunlight, water, soil, insects, other plants, animals, and even people. Then think about what depends on it. What happens if one part of the web disappears?

3 Seed Traveler

Become nature's seed mover!

Collect a few lightweight natural items like leaves, grass seeds (where allowed), pinecones, or small sticks. Pretend you're different seed dispersers—a bird, squirrel, wind, or rushing stream—and see how each might move "seeds" to new places. Why is it important for plants to spread to new places?

4 Water's Journey

Follow the path of a raindrop.

After a rain—or using a watering can—watch where water flows outside. Does it soak into the soil, collect in puddles, run downhill, or disappear under plants? Draw the journey your raindrop takes. How do trees, plants, and healthy soil help keep water clean?

