

Ecosystem Zine

Task: Students will explore a chosen ecosystem in the province of Alberta and create a Magazine that outlines specific elements of that ecosystem

Ecosystems to choose from:

1. *Canadian Shield*
2. *Boreal Forest*
3. *Parkland*
4. *Grassland*
5. *Foothills*
6. *Rocky Mountains*

Your *zine* will include images of the organisms in your ecosystem, and detailed information on how they interact. Be **creative** in your writing. Use combinations of forms; poem, interview, dear diary and paragraph format. Identify and describe the ecosystem where these organisms live.

- Title Page: Ecosystem
- Page 2: Ecosystem described
- Page 3: Table of Contents
- Page 4 – 5: Biotic and Abiotic Factors
- Page 6 – 7: Adaptation
- Page 8 – 9: Commensalism
- Page 10 – 11: Mutualism
- Page 12 – 13: Parasitism
- Page 14 – 15: Food Chains & Life Cycles
- Back cover: About the Author

See Campbell Corner for specific details on page expectations.

If you do not use all the pages allotted (Adaptation for example, may only take 1 page) then you can create an advertisement for the ecosystem (it can be an eco-friendly add or an add for resources provided therein).

Please complete the following rubric AS YOU WORK on your assignment and submit it with your final project.

	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Ecosystem	The zine describes all features of an ecosystem, including where it is located in Alberta, what organisms thrive there, the resources found there, and why it is great for humans.	The zine describes all features of the ecosystem; however, descriptions of 1 or 2 features lack detail.	The zine only describes 2 - 3 features of an ecosystem, and lacks specific detail.	An ecosystem is described briefly, and with few details.	Your zine is titled with an ecosystem, but no explanation is provided
Biotic & Abiotic Factors <i>Pictures required</i>	Definitions of biotic and abiotic factors are present and at least 5 of each are labeled and represented through images.	Biotic and abiotic factors are defined. 3 – 4 factors are represented and labeled.	Biotic and abiotic factors are defined. 1 – 2 factors are represented and labeled.	Biotic and abiotic factors are defined. Factors are presented but not labeled.	Biotic and abiotic factors are depicted but not defined or labeled.
Adaptations <i>Pictures required</i>	In-depth descriptions of how an organism has adapted to live in an Alberta ecosystem are written. Images show the adaptation and it's benefits.	Adaptations are described in detail and represented through images	Adaptations are described in moderate detail and represented through images	Adaptations are discussed and represented but in limited detail.	Either a description or image is represented, but not both.
Commensalism	Commensalism is defined and described between 2 organisms. Experiences of both organisms are represented with great detail.	Commensalism is defined and described between 2 organisms in moderate detail.	Commensalism is defined. An example is provided but details are lacking.	Commensalism is described between 2 organisms in limited detail.	Commensalism is defined but examples are not provided.
Mutualism	Mutualism is defined and described between 2 organisms. Experiences of both organisms are represented with great detail.	Mutualism is defined and described between 2 organisms in moderate detail.	Mutualism is defined. An example is provided but details are lacking.	Mutualism is described between 2 organisms in limited detail.	Mutualism is defined but examples are not provided.
Parasitism	Parasitism is defined and described between 2 organisms. Experiences of both organisms are represented with great detail.	Parasitism is defined and described between 2 organisms in moderate detail.	Parasitism is defined. An example is provided but details are lacking.	Parasitism is described between 2 organisms in limited detail.	Parasitism is defined but examples are not provided.
Food Distribution and Life Cycles <i>Pictures required</i>	A food chain or pyramid of numbers is used to accurately demonstrate the transition of energy in an ecosystem. All terms (producer, consumer, decomposer, herbivore, carnivore and omnivore) are defined.	A food chain or pyramid of numbers is used to accurately demonstrate the transition of energy in an ecosystem. Most terms are defined.	A food chain or pyramid of numbers is used to demonstrate the transition of energy in an ecosystem. Half of the terms are defined.	A food chain or pyramid of numbers is used to demonstrate the transition of energy in an ecosystem. 1 or 2 terms are defined.	Food chains or pyramid of numbers are inaccurate and terms are not defined.
Quality <i>Photocopy is NOT required for full quality marks</i>	The zine is neat and organized and a table of contents is included. "About the Author" provides some reflection on the assignment. No pages are missing the zine is submitted on or before the due date.	The zine is organized and a table of contents is included. No pages are missing the zine is submitted on or before the due date.	Work is organized; however 1 or 2 pages have a sloppy appearance. No pages are missing the zine is submitted on or before the due date.	Work lacks organization. 1 or 2 pages are incomplete or missing. Work is submitted on or before the due date.	Work lacks organization and is not complete on the due date.