

Instructions:

① With your parents, plan a visit to a local ecosystem:

- Picnic in a park with lots of trees and a creek
- Spend a day at on the coast
- Go swimming or kayaking in a river
- Go for a hike through the redwood forest, oak woodlands, or a watershed
- Go fishing in the wetlands or a lake
- Even your backyard could act as a micro ecosystem!



② Before your visit, do some research on this place:

- How is the ecosystem described?
- What kinds of plants and animals live there?
- Who is in charge of its care?
- How do humans interact with it?
- Whose ancestral homeland is it located on?



③ On your visit:

- Take lots of pictures!
- Bring a notebook and make at least **ten** observations
- Do **one** thing to show *respect* for this place
- Look for an example of *reciprocity*
- Before leaving, write a short journal entry describing your relationship to this place. How do you feel when you visit? Is this place important to you?



④ After your visit:

- Find a shoebox or a small box to use as a *diorama* of this ecosystem
- Use your notes and pictures to help you think about what you want to include in your diorama
- Gather materials for your project, such as card stock, natural materials like rock or dirt, recycled materials, craft supplies, figurines, legos, cotton balls, toothpicks, modeling clay, etc.

Diorama requirements:

- At least 2 producers and 2 consumers
- (not including humans)
- A representation of human activity
- *i.e. fishing, gathering, controlled burning, etc.*
- A source of water
- A source of shade
- A representation of a reciprocal relationship
- A sign of respect

Presentation outline:

- Introduction:
 - Where did you visit?
 - How would you describe this ecosystem?
- Share your diorama!
 - What materials did you use?
 - Point out each of the requirements listed above
- Read your Land Acknowledgement
- Questions?