

Date: _____

Name: _____

Ecosystem Interactions

This activity was created by Katy.

As humans, we interact with ecosystems around us every single day. But what effects do we have on our natural environment, and are they positive or negative? Let's investigate the effects of humans on an ecosystem.

Think about the natural state of an ecosystem, and how human activity can change biological conditions, habitats, and natural balance. Now think about a specific ecosystem in your environment. What are the effects of humans on this ecosystem, and is the system being changed by human activity?

Answer the following questions about your ecosystem.

Where is your ecosystem located?

What type of ecosystem is it? (Wetland, grassland, desert, tundra, etc.)

What type of human activity exists in this ecosystem? (Housing, roads, transportation, businesses, parks, etc.)

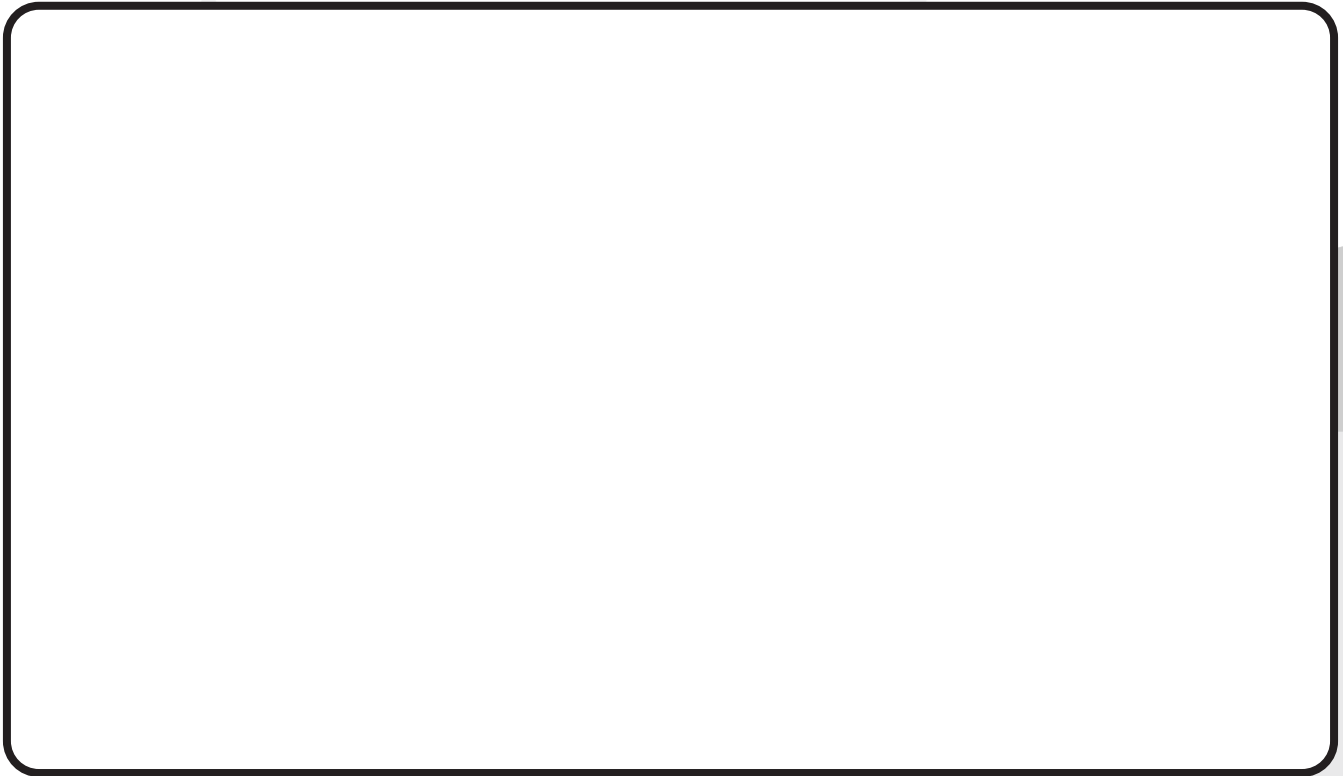
What do you think the effects of this human activity are on the ecosystem?

Date: _____

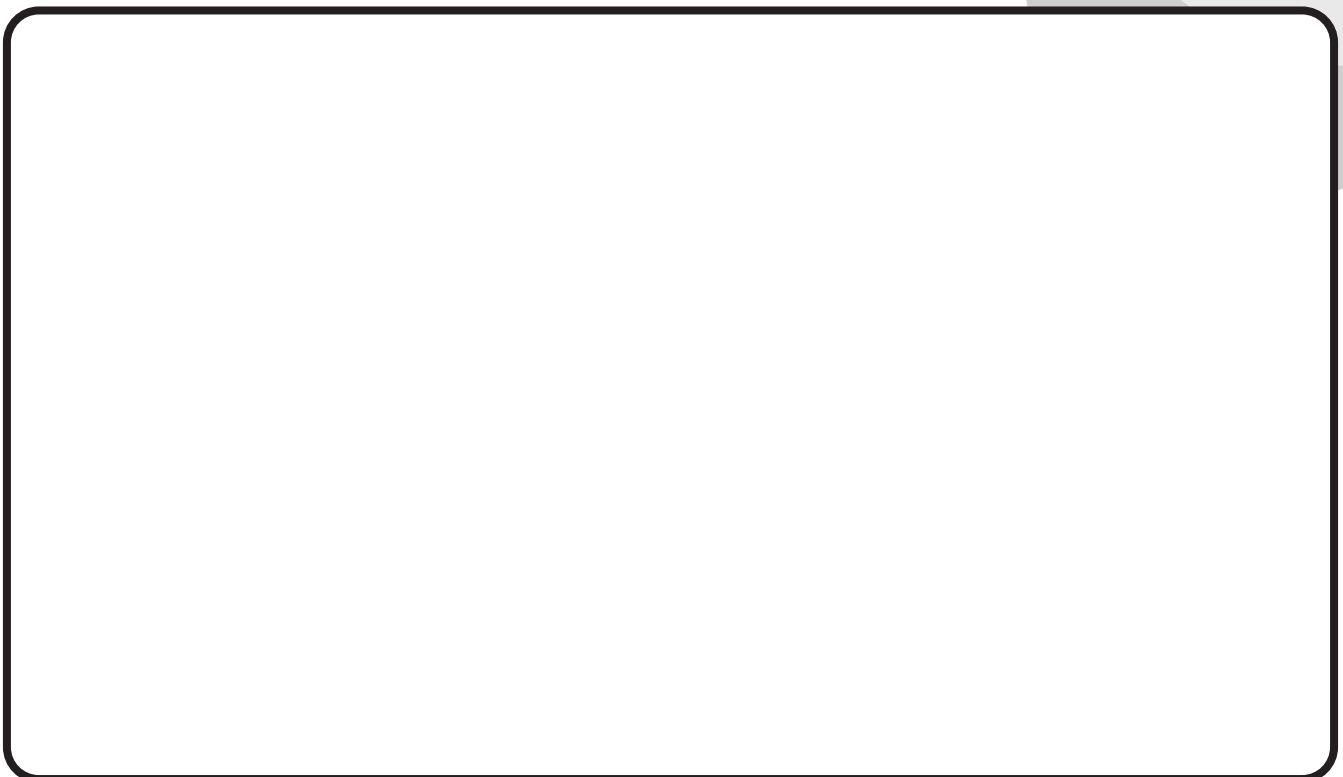
Name: _____

Appearance of an Ecosystem

In the first space below, draw a picture of how your ecosystem looks right now.



Now think about what your ecosystem would look like if there was no human activity. How would the appearance change? In the space below draw a picture of your ecosystem without human activity.



Date: _____

Name: _____

Human Interventions in Ecosystems

An intervention is an action taken in attempt to make a positive change. Human interventions come in many different forms, but unfortunately can at times be more harmful than helpful. When humans designate protected habitats, or reintroduce species to an environment, that has a positive effect on the ecosystem. But what if humans introduce non-indigenous species into a region? The natural balance of an ecosystem can be easily disrupted.

Think about human interventions present in your ecosystem and the differences between your two ecosystem drawings to answer the questions below.

Are there any positive human interventions in this ecosystem?

Are there any negative human interventions in this ecosystem?

What can you do to reduce your impact on the ecosystem?
