

Pre-Class and Post-Class Activities

Ecosystem Adventure

Note: The following discussions are completely optional and are not required for participation in the Ecosystem Adventure class. This information is provided as ways to build on this class and to be used at your discretion.

Vocab to know:

- Habitat
- Ecosystem
- Biome
- Adaptation
- Environment
- Camouflage
- Tundra
- Desert
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Taiga
- Alpine
- Grassland
- Chaparral
- Wetland
- Diurnal
- Melanism

Pre-Class Discussions:

Discuss how cats live in many different environments, from snowy mountains and forests to deserts and wetlands. Ask students to think about how a cat's fur, body shape, paws, claws, color, and other features might help it survive where it lives. Encourage students to share examples of animals they know and how their surroundings may affect the way they look, move, or behave.

Post Class Discussions:

Have students share examples from the discovery stations and explain how specific traits, such as fur color & thickness, paw size, claws, tails, or body size, help cats survive in different environments. Discuss how the same adaptation may be useful in one habitat but not another. Ask: "Which cat and habitat surprised you the most, and why?"

Applicable CA State Content Standards

California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS)

- K-LS1-1
- 2-LS4-1
- 3-LS4-2
- 3-LS4-3
- 4-LS1-1
- 5-LS2-1