

DEPARTMENT: SCIENCE	UNIT TITLE: LOCAL ECOLOGY
GRADE: 5	CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS: GRADE 4 STORIES IN STONE; GRADE 3 ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

SECTION	LENGTH	CONTENT	SKILLS	METHODS OF ASSESSMENT	FRAMEWORK STRAND(S) & STANDARD(S) Grades 3-5
Pond ecosystems	1.5 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ecosystem includes all the organisms in a specific area and their interactions with earth, water, and air as well as with each other. Everything is connected to everything else. Food chains include producers, consumers, scavengers and decomposers. Each role is crucial to the ecosystem. In nature there is no such thing as waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up, observe and describe a model ecosystem Identify producers, consumers, and decomposers. Diagram the flow of energy through a local ecosystem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal rubric Worksheets Quiz 	L 7., 11.
Soil properties Testing soil and water	2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil properties include color, texture, acidity, water retention and fertility Ecosystems respond to changes in measurable ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare soils based on properties. Test soil and water for pH, nitrate and ammonia levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksheets Teacher observation checklist 	ESS 5.
Ecological disturbance	3.5 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some organisms, especially humans, succeed by changing their environments. For every action we take there is an effect on the natural community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and conduct an experiment or observation to answer a question about a local ecosystem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance task 1 rubric Performance task 2 rubric 	ESS 5 LS 7., 10., 11