

ECOSYSTEM SORTING CHART



Time: approximately 45-60 minutes

Instructional Goals:

- The student will use the PebbleGo online database to research ecosystems and the plants and animals that live in various ecosystems.
- The student will use subject directory searching to locate needed information.
- The student will sort plants and animals according to the ecosystem they live in.
- The student will create a chart illustrating six different ecosystems and the plants and animals that live within those ecosystems.
- The student will be introduced to the concept of citing sources using a simplified bibliography.

Materials/Resources:

- PebbleGo Earth and Space online database
- Ecosystem Sorting Chart
- Which Ecosystem? list of plants and animals
- class Venn diagram for whole group discussion
- scissors and glue

Directions:

Focus

1. Explain to students that an ecosystem is a group of animals and plants that work together with their surroundings. As an example, explain that the tundra is an ecosystem that is very cold. Tundras do not have many trees. Arctic foxes and Arctic hares live in the tundra. Another example of an ecosystem is a desert.
2. As a class, brainstorm different types of ecosystems.
3. Explain to students that they are going to research six types of ecosystems. They are going to use an online database called PebbleGo Earth and Space as their research source.

Teach/Model

4. Walk students through the process of accessing the PebbleGo Earth and Space online database.
5. Show students how subject directory searching works by clicking on Earth Science and then Ecosystems.
6. Demonstrate how students can retrace their steps by using the green back button.
7. Click on the Tundra article to use as an example.
8. Demonstrate the read-aloud function when the mouse hovers over the subject directory buttons. Show students the tabs above the article to navigate through the Tundra article.
9. Demonstrate how the read-aloud function will read the Tundra article.

Guided Practice



10. Ask students how they can use the PebbleGo Earth and Space online database to discover what plants and animals live in the tundra.
11. Have students lead you through the process of clicking on the different tabs until they discover the plants and animals that live in the tundra.
12. Make a class list of the plants and animals that live in the tundra.
13. Explain to students that researchers must tell which source(s) they used to find their research information. The list of their information sources is called a bibliography. Demonstrate where they can locate the citation for this source by clicking on the Cite This Article button.

Independent Practice

14. Either divide students into pairs or have them work independently. Give each student an Ecosystem Sorting Chart and Which Ecosystem? list of plants and animals.
15. Explain to students they are to use the subject directory in PebbleGo Earth and Space to figure out where the different plants and animals on the Which Ecosystem? list go in the Ecosystem Sorting Chart. Students will cut out the plants and animals on the Which Ecosystem? list and paste them into the appropriate place on the Ecosystem Sorting Chart.
16. Show students how you want them to cite the article for a bibliography by copying "PebbleGo Earth and Space" into the bibliography line at the bottom of the Ecosystem Sorting Chart.
17. Monitor student progress as they work to complete the Ecosystem Sorting Chart.

Closure

18. Bring students together as a whole group to discuss the Ecosystem Sorting Chart. Go through the chart to ensure everyone has the plants and animals in the correct section of the chart.
19. Ask students if they notice anything that is the same between the different ecosystems. Do any of the ecosystems have the same types of plants or animals? If so, which ones?
20. Ask students if they notice anything different between the ecosystems. Do some ecosystems have more plants than others? Which ones?
21. Ask students if they learned any other interesting information about the different ecosystems during their research, such as where they are located and what the weather is like.
22. Compare and contrast two of the ecosystems as a class using a Venn diagram.

Extend/Enrich

- Students may create individual Venn diagrams comparing two or more ecosystems using the articles in PebbleGo Earth and Space.
- Students may create different charts for sorting other plants and animals of their choice into various ecosystems using information from the PebbleGo Earth and Space online database.

Name: _____



Ecosystem Sorting Chart

Coral Reef	Desert	Grassland	Tropical Rain Forest	Temperate Forest	Wetland

Bibliography
I found my information in _____.

Which Ecosystem?

Research each ecosystem using PebbleGo. Cut out the plants and animals and paste them on your Ecosystem Sorting Chart.

		
beaver	camel	owl
		
macaw	shark	cactus
		
coral	grass	liana
		
prairie dog	water lily	berry bush