

Forest Ecosystems Worksheet

Please answer the questions below based on your walk in the woods near Wadsworth Mansion. (Answers should not be about creatures you saw during the session at the vernal pool.)

1. What producers did you enjoy seeing, touching & smelling? Which on way your favorite and why? (Producers are plants. They produce food energy from the sun via photosynthesis.)

2. Give an example of an adaptation that one of these producers had.

3. The biggest producers you saw were trees. Even if you do not know the names of all the trees, what could you look at to tell that the different trees apart in the woods by Wadsworth Mansion?

4. Do you think there are a wide variety of trees in the woods near Wadsworth Mansion? Does this suggest that this is a healthy or unhealthy ecosystem?

5. Did you see any consumers on your walk? (Consumers are animals. They get their energy by consuming (eating) producers and other consumers.)

6. You saw signs of consumers you did not get to see. What are 3 consumers you saw signs of? What was the sign (what told you they were there?)?

7. For each of the consumers you listed above, were they primary or secondary consumers? (Primary consumers are herbivores; they get their energy by consuming producers (plants). Secondary consumers are carnivores; they get their energy by consuming other consumers (animals).)

8. List some adaptations of woodpeckers.

9. Pick a consumer, other than the woodpecker, and give an example of an adaptation it has.

10. What are 2 decomposers you saw or saw signs of on your walk? (Decomposers get their energy by decomposing (or breaking down) dead producers (plants) and consumers (animals).)

11. A healthy ecosystem has many different types of producers, consumers and decomposers. Can you imagine what would happen if there were no decomposers? What would the forest ecosystem be like?

12. What would happen if all the large secondary consumers were no longer around (e.g. people killed or poisoned them.)?

13. What was your favorite thing you saw, touched, or smelled on the walk?