The books on this list have been carefully chosen to support the third-grade *Investigating Ecosystems* science investigation. All of them were in print as of October 2005.

**Batten, Mary.** *ALIENS FROM EARTH: WHEN ANIMALS AND PLANTS INVADE OTHER ECOSYSTEMS.* Peachtree Press, 2003. 32p. $15.95. ISBN 156145236X. Learn about zebra mussels, gypsy moths, starlings, cats, and fire ants, a few of the aggressive invaders which have upset delicate ecosystems of Australia, New England, the Great Lakes, California, and New York City’s Central Park. (Lesson 7: Oh Deer; Lesson 8: Balance in Ecosystems)

**Bishop, Nic.** *FOREST EXPLORER: A LIFE-SIZE FIELD GUIDE.* Scholastic, 2004. 48p. $17.95, ISBN 0439174805. Photographic montages depict in detail deciduous forest habitats at various times of the day and year. Double page photos show more than 130 small creatures that inhabit different layers of the forest; accompanying field notes emphasize their interdependence. A picture index, suggestions for forest exploration and equipment, projects, and examples of nature journaling round out the text. (Lesson 2: A Study System; Lesson 4: A Tree’s Life Story) *Backyard Explorer* (Lesson 6: Interactions in Your Own Backyard) is also available.


**Cooper, Jason.** *LIFE CYCLE OF AN OAK TREE.* Rourke, 2003. 24p. $4.95, ISBN 158952604X. The life cycle of an oak tree from flower to acorn to tree is presented in full-color photographs and simple, scientific writing. Text features: table of contents, index, captions, bolded words, glossary. (Lesson 4: A Tree’s Life Cycle)

**Cornell, Joseph.** *JOHN MUIR: MY LIFE WITH NATURE.* Dawn Publications, 2000. 72p. ISBN 1584690097 $8.95 A retelling of the life John Muir, Sierra Club founder, in which the naturalist speaks of his encounters with wild animals, trees,

Crenson, Victoria. HORSESHOE CRABS AND SHOREBIRDS: THE STORY OF A FOOD WEB. Cavendish, 2003. 32p. $16.95, ISBN 0761451153. Predator-prey relationships as part of the food web are described in the horseshoe crab’s cyclical journey from the depths of Delaware Bay to the sandy beaches and back. (Lesson 5: Making Connections)

Ehrich, Amy. THE STORY OF RACHEL CARSON. Silver Whistle, 2003, 32p. $16.00, ISBN 0152162275. This narrative links Rachel Carson’s life as a bright and curious child to her becoming a student at Woods Hole Marine Biology Laboratory, then an ocean explorer, a collector of specimens, and author of The Sea Around Us and Silent Spring. Minor’s full-color illustrations give personality to every page. Pair with Listening to Crickets. (Introduction: Doing Science)

Ganeri, Anita. PLANT LIFE CYCLES. Heinemann, 2005. 32p. $7.25, ISBN 1410913198. This profusely illustrated text shows that a plant’s life cycle is one of the patterns found in nature. Included are clear explanations of photosynthesis, parts of a plant, products of plants (flowers, seeds, nuts). Text features: table of contents, index, labels, glossary. (Lesson 4: A Tree’s Life Cycle)

Kalman, Bobby. THE LIFE CYCLE OF A TREE. Crabtree, 2002. 32p. $5.95, ISBN 0778706893. Growth cycles and anatomy of conifers and broad leaves are depicted with photographs and labeled scientific drawings, along with discussion of how trees benefit the environment. Text features: table of contents, insets, captions, topical headings, glossary, index. (Lesson 4: A Tree’s Life Cycle; Lesson 8: Balance in Ecosystems)

Kalman, Bobby. WHAT IS A BIOME? Crabtree, 1998. 32p. $5.95, ISBN 0865058873. Biomes are determined by location, climate, and the interdependence of plant and animal life. This text provides an overview of the Earth’s major biomes and examples of the ecological communities within each biome. Text features: maps, charts, glossary, captions table of contents, index. (Lesson 1: Imagine Yourself; Session 5: Making Connections; Lesson 8: Balance in Ecosystems)


Morrison, Gordon. NATURE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. 32p. $16.00, ISBN 0618352155. Beautifully illustrated by the author, this is an informative book about the abundance of animals and plants in urban backyard environments and how these organisms change with the seasons. (Lesson 2: A Study System; Lesson 6: Interactions in Your Own Backyard)
Morrison, Gordon. OAK TREE. Houghton Mifflin, 2000, 30p. $6.95, ISBN 0618609180. Each page in this text is divided into two parts: a portion of the oak’s life cycle and a look at animals, insects and birds that depend on this tree. Concepts such as the changing seasons are supported by illustrations that are carefully drawn pencil and watercolor paintings. (Lesson 4: A Tree’s Life Story; Lesson 5: Making Connections)

Morrison, Gordon. POND. Houghton Mifflin, 2003, 32p. $16.00, ISBN 061810271. Readers observe the interactions of plants and animals in and around a pond – the changes and activities that occur over days and weeks throughout the seasons. Insets provide additional detail. (Lesson 5: Making Connections)


Silver, Donald. ONE SMALL SQUARE: SEASHORE. Learning Triangle Press, 1993. 48p. $7.95, ISBN 0070579288. This field guide explores the many small ecosystems found within and bordering tidal zones, with text and illustrations explaining interactions among plants and animals along the seashore. Young readers are shown how to use tools for exploring and how to keep a scientific notebook. Text features: index, headings, insets, captions, labeled drawings. Other books in this series include: Arctic Tundra, Backyard, Cactus Desert, Cave,
Coral Reef, Pond, Swamp, Tropical Rain Forest, and Woods. (Lesson 2: A Study System; Lesson 3: Nature’s Cafeteria; Lesson 5: Making Connections)

Smithyman, Kathryn and Bobby Kalman. THE OCEAN BIOME. Crabtree, 2003. 32p. $6.95, ISBN 0778713180. This book examines the four zones of the marine biome - sunlit, twilight, midnight, and abyssal - and the food chain that exists in each one. The human impact on oceans, including global warming, greenhouse gases, oil spills, and overfishing is noted. Text features: table of contents, labeled diagrams, glossary and index. (Lesson 3: Nature’s Cafeteria; Lesson 5: Making Connections; Lesson 8: Balance in Ecosystems)


Spilsbury, Richard and Louise. DESERT FOOD CHAINS. Heinemann, 2005. 32p. $7.50, ISBN 1403458626. This book in the Food Web series looks at the differences among the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers within the desert food chain or food web. What happens when there is a break in the chain and what we can do to help protect the desert ecosystem are discussed. Text features: table of contents (focus questions), labeled diagrams and maps, captions, glossary and an index. Other books in this series: Grassland Food Chains, Mountain Food Chains, Ocean Food Chains, Rainforest Food Chains and River Food Chains. (Lesson 3 – Nature’s Cafeteria; Lesson 5: Making Connections; Lesson 8: Balance in Ecosystems)

Swinburne, Stephen. THE WOODS SCIENTIST. Houghton Mifflin, 2002. 48p. $16.95, ISBN 061804602X. The author teams with naturalist and forester Sue Morse to reveal how she uses tracks and traces to interpret wildlife behavior. Concepts such as forest ecology and preservation, plant and animal interdependence, and the human impact on forests are discussed. Superb photographs enhance the text. (Making Connections; Lesson 8: Balance in Ecosystems)

Wallace, Marianne D. AMERICA’S MOUNTAINS: GUIDE TO PLANTS AND ANIMALS. Fulcrum Press, 48p. $15.95, ISBN 1555913830. This full-color guide explains mountain ecosystems and introduces more than 100 plants and animals found in six different mountain ranges – Appalachian, Rocky Mountains (Northern and Southern), Cascades, Sierra Nevada, and Alaskan. Accurate and detailed illustrations strengthen the writing. Text features: table of contents, headings, captions, labels, glossary and an index. Other books in this series: America’s Wetlands, America’s Deserts, and America’s Grasslands and Prairies. (Lesson 5: Making Connections)
Wright-Frierson, Virginia. **A NORTH AMERICAN RAIN FOREST SCRAPBOOK.**
Walker, 2003 40p. $8.95, ISBN 0802776515. A combination sketchbook, nature journal, and postcard to readers documents the author’s exploration of a temperate ecosystem dominated by old growth trees. Exploring the rain forest canopy and the forest floor reveals the many plants and animals that depend on each other for survival. The author notes the effects of logging on the rain forest. *(Lesson 2: A Study System; Lesson 5: Making Connections; Lesson 8: Balance in Ecosystems)*

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