What is science?

What is a scientist?
What are some living and non-living things that interact in different ecosystems?
What are some similarities and differences between the environments and between the plants and animals in these environments?
What animals and plants have you observed in your local area?
What is food?  
Why do we eat?  
Do these kinds of interactions occur in all environments?
What is the difference between a food web and a food chain?
What does a tree need to grow?

What are some helpful and harmful interactions in a tree’s life?
What are the differences between a forest, a meadow, an ocean, a desert, a lake, and a pond?
What are producers, decomposers, and consumers?
What are some interactions in an oak forest, salt marsh, and rain forest ecosystems?
How might scientists solve problems by studying the natural world?
How is your ongoing investigation of the study system like an investigation that scientists do of ecosystems?

What have you found that might create or solve problems in your study system?
What is the role of the sun?
Why do consumers interact with producers?
Can you develop part of your schoolyard as a habitat for wildlife? How might you persuade a person with authority to make this decision?
What kinds of interactions might deer have in forest ecosystems? What effect does a decrease in resources have on a deer population?
What changes might happen in the prairie ecosystem if farmers on nearby ranches hunted or poisoned coyotes to keep the coyotes from killing their sheep? Which animals would be helped or hurt by the changes?
Describe a change in your neighborhood. Was the change helpful, harmful, or both?
How are things in an ecosystem hitched together?
What plants and animals live in your ecosystem?
How do the plants and animals meet their needs?
Does one living thing provide food for another living thing? What are the climate and weather like?
Identify the producers, consumers, and decomposers.