

O'Neill Sea Odyssey Symbiosis Activity



Step outside your home. If you have a backyard, a porch, a deck or balcony or even a window that looks out onto an outside space, you can participate in this activity.

Identify the living organisms in your outside space:

What do you hear when you are outside or standing near an open window? Do you hear birds singing, dogs barking, the rustle of wind in the trees and plants, traffic, people talking, insect sounds, or other sounds that are specific to your neighborhood?

Sound description:

Plants

Describe the plants that you see growing in your neighborhood. Are there trees, bushes, grass, flowers?

Plant description:

Animals

Look around your outside space and see if you can find any animals near the plants. Insects, birds, squirrels, gophers, mice, and rabbits are all common in areas where people live.

What animals do you see?

Now, using what you know from the symbiosis video, research the animals that you see and find out what they eat. Are their ladybugs? They eat aphids; another type of insect that eats plants. Are their bees around? Bees gather nectar from flowers to make honey. Are their birds? Observe their behavior. Are they eating insects, or plants?
Record symbiosis observation here:

Is this symbiotic relationship **commensalism**, **mutualism** or **parasitism**? (circle one)

Now, identify one thing that people do that may interfere with symbiosis. Do people mow the lawns before dandelions can grow to feed the bees? Have trees been removed, providing less habitat for birds? Have people left garbage on the ground which could be eaten by birds, mice or racoons?

Record human interference with symbiosis here:
