

Unit Issue Provides context for relevant and connected anchoring and investigative phenomena within the unit.

How and why do organisms interact with their environment and what are the effects of these interactions? What if the organisms aren't native to the area?

Unit Phenomena What can we observe in science that makes us wonder?

Introduced species are changing their environments, can cause problems for people, and affect biodiversity.

When people bring new organisms to an ecosystem, there can be effects for people and the environment.

There are different organisms and different numbers of organisms in different places.

Different species tend to be found together and are linked through feeding relationships.

Physical and biological factors can disrupt an ecosystem to a small or large degree.

Activities Students use SEPs and understanding of DCI and CCC to explain, justify, and argue a point of view about the issue.

species research

local data transects

black-worm habitats

owl pellets and food webs

matter cycles - local nematodes

population growth

modeling a new species

abiotic impacts in ecosystems

evaluating & presenting solutions

