

INVESTIGATING ECOSYSTEMS

The ecosystem I am in is: _____

SENSORY OBSERVATIONS

Look around you. Use the questions below to describe this ecosystem.

What sounds do you hear?	How much of the sky can you see when you look up?
Is it hot, warm, or cool?	Is it bright, shady, or dark?
What does it smell like?	What animals (including insects) do you think would like to live here?

Something else I observed about this ecosystem is:

LIVING AND NON-LIVING TOGETHER

An ecosystem contains both living and non-living elements. List 2 living and 2 non-living components of this ecosystem.

LIVING	NON-LIVING
1)	1)
2)	2)

Look for evidence of animals, including humans. Write down what you see.

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Exploring, Explaining and Conserving the World of Tropical Plants



INVESTIGATING ECOSYSTEMS

TREE IDENTIFICATION IN THE HAMMOCK

As tree detectives, you will identify 2 or more trees in the tropical hardwood hammock.

WHAT TO DO:

- 1) Choose 2 of the marked trees and fill in the worksheet.
- 2) Using the ID cards, figure out the names of the trees.
- 3) Check with guide.

	TREE # ____	TREE # ____
Describe the bark (For example: color, texture, feel)		
Size of leaves - Length - width	Length: ____ cm; ____ inch Width: ____ cm; ____ inch	Length: ____ cm; ____ inch Width: ____ cm; ____ inch
Leaf arrangement - opposite or - alternate		
Flowers - If present		
Fruit - If present		
One question I have about this tree is:		
NAME OF TREE:		

INVESTIGATING ECOSYSTEMS

The ecosystem I am in is: _____

SOIL OBSERVATIONS

Use the questions below to describe the soil.

Is the soil moist or dry?	Does the soil have leaves or other organic matter in it? How much?
What color is the soil?	Does the soil have rocks in it? If so, are they small, medium or large? Are there a few rocks or many?
Does the soil have bugs or other living things in it?	Feel the texture of the soil – does it feel like clay or sand?

Something else I observed about this soil is:

WATER MOVES THROUGH SOIL

WHAT TO DO:

1. Insert tube into the soil up to the line on the outside of the tube.
2. Pour water in the tube up to the line on the inside.
3. Time how long it takes the water to completely seep into the soil.

How long did the water take to percolate? _____