

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

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. In the spaces below, list one living and one non-living component of this ecosystem.

LIVING: _____

NON-LIVING: _____

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

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The ecosystem I am in is: _____

SOIL OBSERVATIONS

Use the questions below to describe the soil.

Is the soil moist or dry?	Feel the texture of the soil – does it feel like clay or sand?
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?	Does the soil have leaves or other organic matter in it? How much?

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? _____