



Sweet Connections

Introduction

In the book *If You Love Honey*, author Martha Sullivan introduces students to a meadow ecosystem. An ecosystem is a dynamic place, with plants and animals interacting in a variety of ways. Animals move through the ecosystem to meet their needs of finding food, water, shelter, and safety. In this activity, children write a story about one animal's experience as it moves around in meadow.

Materials Needed

- ◆ The book *If You Love Honey*
- ◆ Writing and/or drawing paper, 1 sheet per student
- ◆ Colored markers or crayons, enough for all students

Common Core Standards (ELA K-3)

- ◆ Reading: Literature
 - Key Ideas and Details K.1, 1.1, 2.1
 - Craft and Structure K.7, 1.7, 2.7
- ◆ Writing
 - Text Types and Purposes K.3, 1.3, 2.3, 3.3

Procedure

1. Read the book aloud. Show children the meadow illustration under "Sweet Connections" on the "Explore for Kids" page. Review the plants and animals mentioned in the story. Look at the other illustrations to notice any additional animals.
2. Explain that animals move throughout their meadow ecosystem to find food, water, shelter, and safety. For example, bees fly from flower to flower gathering nectar (food) and deliver it to the hive (shelter and safety). Monarch butterfly caterpillars eat the leaves of a milkweed plant (food) and then roam around the meadow looking for a suitable place to make their chrysalis (shelter and safety).
3. Have children choose one of the meadow animals and ask them to write and illustrate a short story about the places their animal visited in the meadow. What was it doing at each place? How was it moving? What body parts allow it to move this way? What was it eating?
4. Have children share their stories with the class or in small groups. How was their animal's experience of the meadow the same or different from other animals' experiences?

Next Generation Science Standards (DCI K-3)

- ◆ Life Science
 - LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Function
 - LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
 - LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity



