



NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



Recipe for the Forest

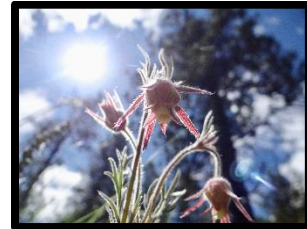
View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

This activity is called “Recipe for the Forest.” It is something you can do in your own backyard, any natural area or a park. You write a “recipe” by looking around and seeing what the ingredients are (and how they interact) to make your habitat (in this case a forest) operate. How does it work and what are the living and non-living parts of the forest? How do they interact with each other?

In your journal (or piece of paper); start to record what you see. Start with the LAWS of Life.

L-sunlight

What type of light is there? In this case it is filtered, and I see shadows.



A-air

Many factors including the air quality, level of humidity, the amount of wind, and exposure to the wind impact what lives in a particular area.



W-water

It had recently rained so there is a lot of water on the plants and the forest floor. Also, I’m sitting by a pond so that is a big body of water.



S-soil

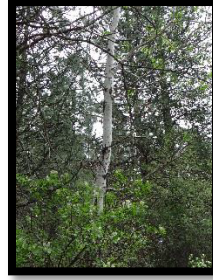
I am sitting where it is rocky, and I can see a lot of pine needles. I can also see a lot of plants growing so I would say I have rich “S” soil.



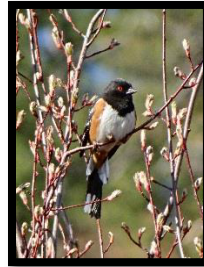
The amount or quality of these key ingredients impact what you may see growing and living in an area.

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List (or draw pictures of) all the plants, trees, grasses, mosses that you see.



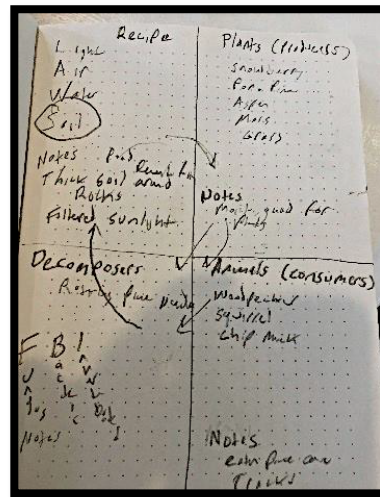
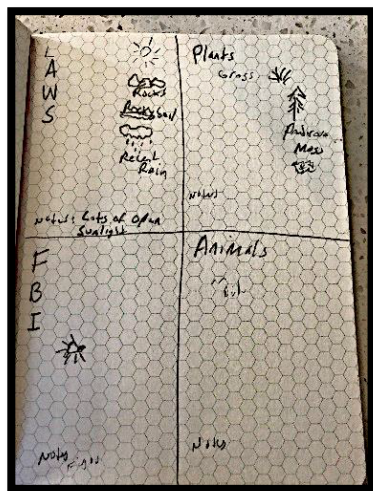
Are there any creatures living here? Do you see any birds or small mammals? If not, you can imagine what might live there or what you may have seen in the area when you visited before. You can record what you actually see, or maybe you will see some signs of life, (footprints of an animal or a pinecone that has been partially eaten?)



Look around for decomposers or “FBI” (fungus, bacteria, or invertebrates) which will break down into soil. Soil is one of the LAWS of Life.



You start having a cycle with LAWS of life; then plants; the animals that eat the plants and sometimes other animals; then the decomposers who turn everything back into soil. This is a cycle of all the living things in this habitat.



Look around and see what you can find. If you make a recipe card or sketch that you created, you can share it with us at Education@DishmanHills.org.