

Tool 2 Template Example – Evidence of Learning Specifications

Middle School Ecology Unit

MS-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics

Instructional Sequence 1

Performance Expectation MS-LS2-2

Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on predicting consistent patterns of interactions in different ecosystems in terms of the relationships among and between organisms and abiotic components of ecosystems. Examples of types of interactions could include competitive, predatory, and mutually beneficial.

Performance Expectation MS-ESS3-4

Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems.

Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence include grade-appropriate databases on human populations and the rates of consumption of food and natural resources (such as freshwater, mineral, and energy). Examples of impacts can include changes to the appearance, composition, and structure of Earth's systems as well as the rates at which they change. The consequences of increases in human populations and consumption of natural resources are described by science, but science does not make the decisions for the actions society takes.

Evidence of Learning Specifications

Construct an explanation that predicts:

1. consistent patterns of interactions between living and non-living parts of ecosystems
2. consistent patterns of types of interactions including competitive, predatory, and mutually beneficial

Construct an argument that:

1. is supported by empirical evidence of interactions within the ecosystem (a type of Earth system) and scientific reasoning
2. supports or refutes how increases in human population cause negative impacts on the Earth