The Secret World Inside You
8.0 You Are An Ecosystem Interactive Table

Narration Text

**Introduction**
Hi everyone! Did you know your body is an ecosystem like a rainforest or an ocean? It has different habitats, and provides resources like food and space for many species. Every day, bacteria, fungi and other microbes grow, reproduce and die on and within you. These microbes have specific relationships with us, and with each other.

But how do we get these species in the first place?

At birth, a baby acquires the bacteria that first colonize the body. These species will give the baby a head start on staying healthy.

See the stories lit up all around me? Feel free to explore them, and discover some of the species that call our body home.

**Narration Interlude #1: Competition**
In nature, species compete with one another to stake their claim to territory, food or mates. The same thing happens on or inside you. Touch a lighted story to learn about microbes competing for resources.

**Narration Interlude #2: Commensalism**
When two species interact in the natural world, sometimes one benefits while the other is neither helped nor harmed. Touch a lighted story to learn about this kind of relationship.
Narration Interlude #3: Mutualism
In some interactions between organisms, both parties benefit. Touch a lighted story to learn about these win-win relationships.

Narration Interlude #4: Niche Adaptation
Organisms adapt to take advantage of specific roles, or niches, in an ecosystem. They are able to access a resource that others can’t. Touch a lighted story to learn about microbes adapted to our body's many niches.

Pronunciation Guide:

Fungi (Fun-guy)
Niche (Neesh)