**Part 2 - Ecosystems: Diversity within the Biomes**

**Hierarchy:**

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\4XX2HCZS\MC900435570[1].wmfWithin each ecosystem, individual organisms can be found such as a single water lily.

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A group of organisms of the same species, living and reproducing together is called a population such as a pond full of water lilies.

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A community is made up of several populations that live and interact in the same area. All the different organisms that live in the pond make up the pond community. The pond community might include lilies, cattails, dragonflies, turtles, fish and more

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An ecosystem includes the biotic communities and the abiotic factors of the environment that an organism comes from. For example the pond ecosystem includes abiotic factors such as soil, precipitation, temperature, etc. as well as biotic communities that live there such as lilies, fish, insects, and more.

We’ve also already pointed out that several ecosystems make up a biome just as the Great Lakes region is part of the temperate forest biome. Within each ecosystem there are also habitats such as forests, prairies, wetlands, dunes, and more but together it’s all part of the larger biome. The earth is a patch work of many biomes with features based on mountain ranges, large bodies of water, and most importantly the distance from the equator. All of these biomes collectively make up the biosphere, or the layer of the earth that supports life.

**C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DS1SCH3Q\MC900355947[1].wmfDiversity within the Ecosystems Organizer**

Materials:

4 sheets of 8 ½” x 11” paper

Scissors

Stapler

Marker

Procedure:



1. Cut one of the pieces of paper in half along the width. You will not use the other half so it can be shared with another group to save paper.
2. Stack each page together leaving each consecutive sheet around ¾ inch higher than the next one above it.
3. Place the half sheet as the center layer
4. Fold the sheets over the half sheet so that they all layer over each other the same distance apart.



1. Stable the bottom crease of the organizer to hold the layers together.
2. Cut the corners of the organizer off at an angle to emphasize the fact that each portion of the Biosphere builds onto the next.
3. Label each layer from Individual Organism to Biosphere.
4. Within each appropriately labeled fold of the organizer include the following:
   1. Definition of the label
   2. Labeled drawing
   3. Explanation as to why the drawing applies to the concept.