

Ecosystem in a Bottle

Real World Ecosystems
Learner Worksheet
Grade Level: 5-8



Name:

After reading the Ecosystem in a Bottle Backgrounder and completing the experiment, answer the following questions.

- 1. In many ways, the biosphere bottle and the Earth's biosphere resemble each other. In both cases, the main input is light energy. Other than lights, very little enters or leaves from either system. But there are some significant differences between the Earth and a biosphere bottle. What are some of those differences and why are they important?**

- 2. If systems are out of balance in the biosphere bottle, problems arise. State two problems that may arise on Earth when systems are out of balance. Name two things you think humans are doing that may result in an imbalance in existing systems.**

3. List three ways in which the information you learned from observing your bottle might help you in designing a closed-system community (such as a biosphere).

4. Whose responsibility is it to maintain balance on Earth? Why?

5. Why could Earth be considered a closed system such as the biosphere bottle is?
