

Ecosystems Video Introduction

The Science North video “Science for the Classroom: Habitats” can be used to accompany the “Oh Deer” Ecosystems Lesson plan and its additional material. The video serves as an introduction for students to habitats, which fall more broadly into the topic of ecosystems. Appropriately, topics such as what organisms need to survive, adaptations, food chains and changes to the habitat are all covered. These topics can be tied into the Grade 7 Interactions in the Environment curriculum strand from which the lesson plan was based on.

Watching this video and using it to supplement the lessons can be beneficial to French as a Second Language learners. In itself, listening to the video in French and making connections to the images on screen can help students familiarize themselves with the vocabulary being used. The vocabulary is geared towards younger students so it is more easily accessed by students who are learning French as a Second Language. Additionally, all the Science North videos are available with closed captioning which will allow students to read the text and make deeper connections with their learning.

The “Oh Deer” Ecosystems lesson plan has two French as a Second Language specific activities; the Semantic Map and the Word Wall. Both these activities can be completed using the video:

Semantic Map

The Semantic Map activity requires students to choose eight words related to the central theme of ecosystems and add details that describe that word. Depending on students’ familiarity with ecosystems, they can choose their own words or they can be provided. In using the video for this tool, some of the words that students will recognize include:

- Habitat; shelter; adaptation; features; behaviours; protection; food chain; herbivores; carnivores; predators

With those words in mind, students can watch the video and record the details related to that word based on what they are viewing. The teacher may wish to pause the video at key increments to allow students the time record information.

Word Wall

Similar to the Semantic Map, the Word Wall activity can be completed using the “Science for the Classroom: Habitats” video. In this activity, students draw images to make connections to 9 common words associated with ecosystems. Many of these words are mentioned in the video and the onscreen images will help students make connections and have a reference for drawing their pictures.

After having watched video multiple times, if students still have gaps in their vocabulary or are having challenges with certain terms and concepts, the teacher can focus on those words using the other activities in this lesson plan. In such a way, the classroom videos can be used with the activities to provide a deeper learning for French as a Second Language students.