

Relationships Among Organisms

Pollinator Passage with Linkling

Learning target

Explain how organisms can affect one another.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Competition; cooperation; pollination; dependence

Open Pollinator Passage - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Relationships Among Organisms - key ideas

1. The first clues

Organisms interact in different ways. Competition occurs when they use limited shared resources; other relationships can benefit one or both partners.

2. How the clues connect

A flower visitor can gain food while transferring pollen that supports plant reproduction. An observed interaction is evidence, not proof that organisms consciously planned a partnership.

3. Our evidence record

Our cards show two plants competing for light and a bee moving pollen while feeding. These describe different relationships within the same ecosystem.

Keep the science accurate

Use a manageable system and one change at a time. No population equations or molecular nutrient cycling.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/pe/5-Is2-1-ecosystems-interactions-energy-and-dynamics>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which example shows competition?

Expected answer: Plants sharing limited light

Reasoning: Organisms interact in different ways. Competition occurs when they use limited shared resources; other relationships can benefit one or both partners.

2. Which bee-flower benefit is supported?

Expected answer: Food for the bee and pollen transfer for the plant

Reasoning: A flower visitor can gain food while transferring pollen that supports plant reproduction. An observed interaction is evidence, not proof that organisms consciously planned a partnership.

3. Can one ecosystem contain different relationships?

Expected answer: Yes

Reasoning: Our cards show two plants competing for light and a bee moving pollen while feeding. These describe different relationships within the same ecosystem.

4. What should classify a relationship?

Expected answer: Observed effects and resource use

Reasoning: Organisms interact in different ways. Competition occurs when they use limited shared resources; other relationships can benefit one or both partners.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.