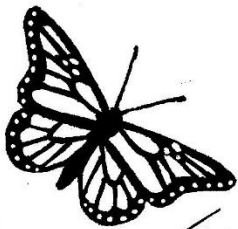




ECOQUEST

Fantastic Feast:

Who's Coming Over for Dinner?



_____'s
Field Journal





A Note About the Illustrations

Unless otherwise noted below*, illustrations for this EcoQuest Field Journal and the EcoQuest Badges were created by two of our extremely talented high school Eco-Leaders, Jiali Pickering and Sadie Pickering. We thank them for their amazing contributions to EcoQuest!

Sincerely,

Ashley Alred & Amelia Goldstein

EcoQuest Authors + Educators

*Illustrations retrieved from *Eco-Inquiry* (1994) by Kathleen Hogan are cited below:

Naturalist Badge: *To be a careful observer*. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 67

Field Ecologist Badge:

Habitat chamber. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 90

Supporting notetaking (Earthworm feeding). *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 92

Food for Ants. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 101

Signs of Animals Eating Plants. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 360

Seed Stations. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 103

Welcome to EcoQuest!



Join us on an EcoQuest to uncover the **secret ecosystem** where you live! How many different organisms live all around you, and what in the world are they eating?

Learn how to use **science tools** to understand fascinating **heterotrophs** and their bizarre eating habits in your home ecosystem.

A **heterotroph** is something that has to **eat** other things to live! A bird is a heterotroph...a tick is a heterotroph...**YOU** are a heterotroph!



Each Eco-Challenge Badge will guide you in your quest. Always have a pencil ready, and your tools close by! Remember, Cary Educators are ready to help if you have questions or want to share your discoveries! We would love to hear from you.

Visit us on our **Padlet** webpage at

<https://padlet.com/caryecoquest/FantasticFeast>, or you can email us at caryeducation@caryinstitute.org.

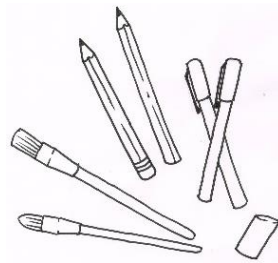
Good Luck in your EcoQuest!

A Note About Your Field Journals

The Field Journals are for **you** & your **discoveries** during this

Fantastic Feast EcoQuest!

COLOR the drawings.



DRAW what you notice.

WRITE notes wherever you want.

And best of all...**TAPE** natural objects in here like pressed leaves, flowers, *even* tiny bugs that may have been accidentally squished!

You'll be saving your memories like a scrap book...

...and documenting data like an ecologist!

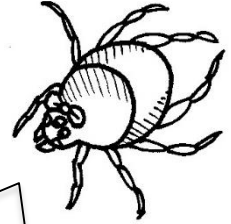
Get **creative**, have **fun**, & uncover the **mysteries** of...

Who's Coming Over for Dinner?

EcoQuest Challenges

☐ Complete 5* Eco-Challenge Badges:

- ☐ Naturalist Badge
- ☐ Field Tech Badge
- ☐ Field Ecologist Badge
- ☐ Artist Badge
- ☐ Teacher Badge



Hi! I'm Daisy the Deer Tick. Be sure to tune in to my "Tick Talk" during EcoQuest. I am full of fun facts, tips, and...surprises!

☐ Complete an Eco-List:

You must identify 30 heterotrophs throughout your EcoQuest journey.

**Please Note:*

"Junior" EcoExplorers should complete the *Naturalist*, *Field Tech*, and *Artist* badges, while "Senior" EcoExplorers should complete all 5 badges (There is no age assignment for "Junior" or "Senior"—it's up to you!). Each badge is broken down into smaller challenges throughout this journal.

Remember to check in online on our EcoQuest Padlet page for additional challenges, videos, feedback, and to see what other EcoExplorers are up to!" Visit our **EcoQuest Padlet**:

<https://padlet.com/caryecoquest/FantasticFeast>

Keep this field journal for your *entire* EcoQuest journey!

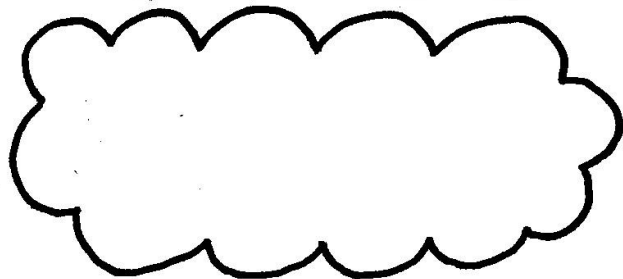
Check off badges as you go...

...and add new species to your Eco-List whenever you can.

You will receive a new field journal for each badge!

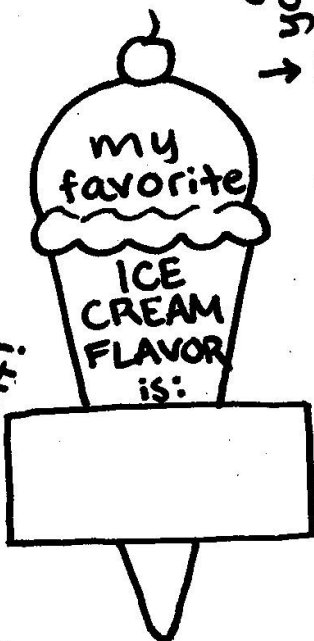
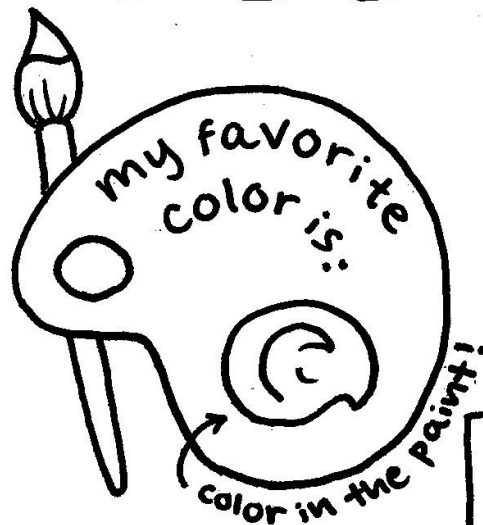
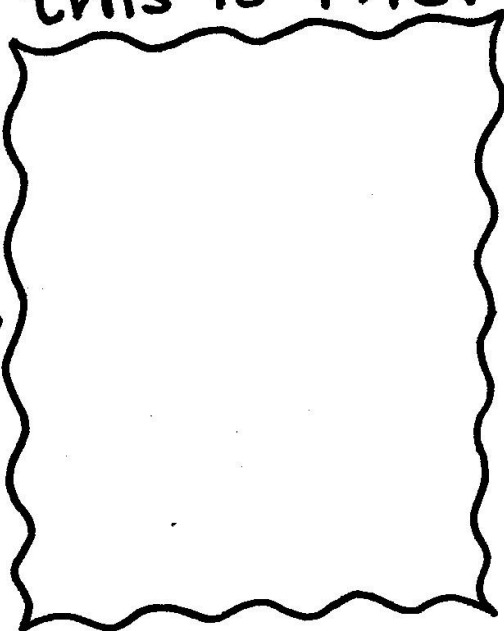
⚡ Eco Explorer ⚡ Bio

my name is

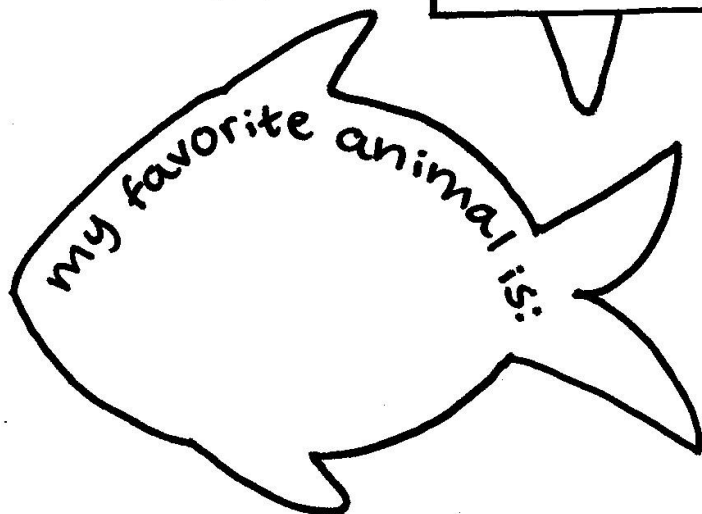


this is me!

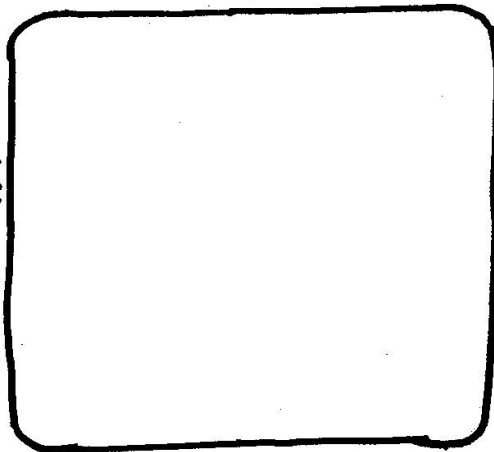
draw
yourself! ↓



if I could
be any animal,
I would be...



draw it!



Introduction



A habitat is a **home** where an organism has everything it needs to live: food, water, & shelter.

Who is in Your Home Habitat?

Think about the nature outside your home...We will call this your Home Habitat.

You probably already know *a lot* about your animal and plant neighbors.

Look through a window or step outside...what animals and plants do you notice?

What **ANIMALS** and **PLANTS** live outside in your home habitat?

Draw or Write in the space below!

What makes your Home Habitat **special** to you?
Draw and color one thing outside that you think is really interesting!

There are animals in your Home Habitat that
you might not see...

What other animals do you **guess** could live in
your home habitat?

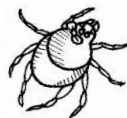
Do you like food? Of course you do.

So do animals!

What do you **guess** animals eat for food in your
home habitat?

Scientists like to make
educated **guesses** about
things they don't know.

This guess is called a
PREDICTION.



Let's Explore!

Explore freely all over your Home Habitat for 10 minutes—or more!

Bring this **Field Journal** with you to make sketches & write notes as you go! Ready...Set...Go!

Did you know that ecologists always carry a **field journal** with them? And that *anyone* can **sketch**? It's true!



Animals	Plants
Signs of Animals	Signs of Animals Eating

EcoQuest Big Questions

What animals live outside of our homes? (*Bugs are animals, too!*)

What do you think?

What do these animals eat for food?

What do you think?

How do we even *begin* to answer these questions?

Can you think of ways?

It's not always easy to see animals because they hide or are really small—how might we know animals are still around?

You are ready to begin answering these questions...by first working on your
Naturalist Badge!

Eco-List Challenge

When you discover a new **heterotroph** (something that eats something else), **add it below!**

*Remember: You must find at least 30 heterotrophs to complete your entire EcoQuest.

1	18
2	19
3	20
4	21
5	22
6	23
7	24
8	25
9	26
10	27
11	28
12	29
13	30
14	31
15	32
16	34
17	35

36	56
37	57
38	58
39	59
40	60
41	61
42	62
43	63
44	64
45	65
46	66
47	67
48	68
49	69
50	70
51	71
52	72
53	73
54	74
55	75

Final EcoQuest Checklist

As an EcoExplorer, I completed the...

- ☐ Naturalist Badge
- ☐ Field Tech Badge
- ☐ Field Ecologist Badge
- ☐ Artist Badge
- ☐ Teacher Badge
- ☐ Eco-List Challenge



I, EcoExplorer _____, hereby certify that I have
(Your Name)
officially completed my Fantastic Feast EcoQuest!

EcoExplorer Signature: _____

Date: _____



Field Notes

Congratulations on completing your EcoQuest!!!



Thank You!

We at Cary Education created EcoQuest as a way to provide families with a fun ecology education opportunity since we had to cancel Cary Eco-Discovery summer camps during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. We are incredibly grateful to all the families, teachers, and students who participate in this brand new program, as well as to our amazing team of high school Eco-Leaders for their creative ideas and dedicated educational contributions.

We are excited to inspire—and be inspired by—children discovering the ecosystem of their own homes and schoolyards.

Thank you for supporting our educational endeavors!

With Gratitude,

Cary Education

References

Hogan, Kathleen. *Eco-Inquiry: A Guide to Ecological Learning Experiences for the Upper Elementary/Middle Grades*. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, PO Box 1840, 4050 Westmark Drive, Dubuque, IA 52004-1840., 1994.

Cary Education Teaching Materials: <https://www.caryinstitute.org/eco-inquiry/teaching-materials>

About the Authors

Cary EcoQuest (2020) curriculum and accompanying online materials were created by Ashley Alred and Amelia Goldstein, with guidance from Dr. Alan Berkowitz, *Cary Head of Education*, and Shelly Forster, *Cary Educator*.

Ashley Alred, Cary Education Program Leader

Before joining Cary Institute, Ashley served as a k-12 environmental educator at the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She received her MS in Science Literacy Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ('16) and her BS in Fisheries & Wildlife Biology from the University of Georgia ('12). Over the years, her academic research interests have ranged from captive chimpanzee behavior to understanding how undergraduates make decisions about conservation issues. She has been an environmental educator in five different states across the country.

As Education Program Leader, Ashley devotes her skills in education, ecology, and research to teaching youth using inquiry-based and data-driven methods during local school field trips and summer camp, while also contributing to innovative ecology education research. Her career focus is to inspire youth to think critically and creatively about ecology and cultivate meaningful, fun connections to their local environment.

Amelia Goldstein, Cary Summer Camp Instructor

Amelia's path to becoming an ecology teacher began in college where she studied the *Sociology of Science*--that is, how scientists act, what rules they follow, who gets to be a scientist and how. She became passionate about making sure that everyone who *wanted* to do science *could* do science. She realized that the best way to make science accessible to everybody was to teach it! When in graduate school for *Biology Education*, Amelia discovered the incredible world of ecology, and she loved that there was room for everybody in it. There was no turning back!

In the summer of 2019, Amelia became a summer camp instructor for Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies where kids spend every day outside exploring ecology. We were lucky enough to have Amelia back for a second summer in 2020 as an instructor for EcoQuest. During the school year, Amelia is a high school science teacher. Amelia currently teaches high school Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Science in New York.