





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:

p. 16 *To be a careful observer*. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 67

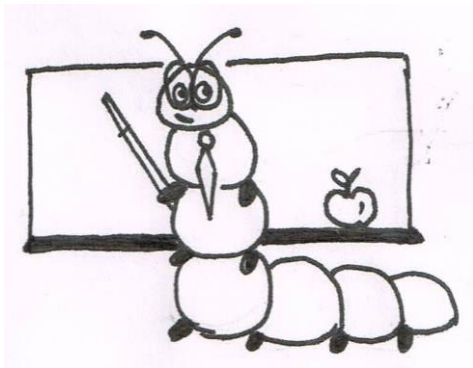
p. 61 *Habitat chamber*. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 90

p. 61 *Supporting notetaking (Earthworm feeding)*. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 92

p. 62 *Food for Ants*. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 101

p. 64 *Signs of Animals Eating Plants*. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 360

p. 66 *Seed Stations*. *Eco-Inquiry* (1994), p. 103



Teacher Badge

Teacher (noun): a person who helps others learn and inspires understanding of new things

Eco-Challenge

The mission of this badge is to practice communicating ecology lessons by sharing what you have learned with your friends and family.

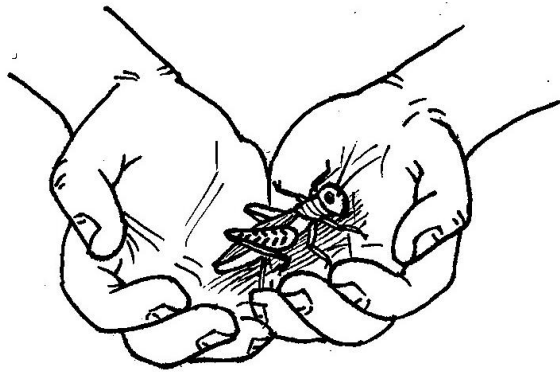
To earn the **Teacher** badge, you must:

- ☐ Make a creative Field Guide! You will help others learn about your EcoQuest investigations in your home ecosystem.
- ☐ Share your Field Guide to family and friends.
- ☐ Bonus: Share your project virtually with other EcoExplorers on Padlet!

Visit us online for the Teacher Badge! <https://padlet.com/caryecoquest/Teacher>

Get Inspired!

Sometimes a teacher really inspires us to want to learn and be the best we can be. Who is that teacher for you?



Write & draw your **favorite teacher** here.

What are some **words** that describe them?

Teacher's Name: _____

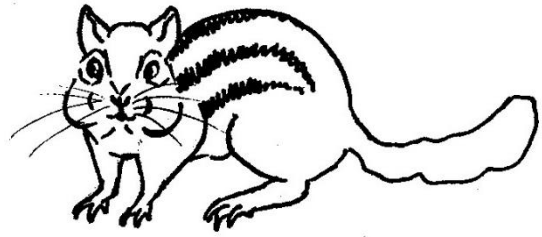
How did this teacher get you **excited** to learn?

What makes that teacher **special**?

How do they make the classroom **FUN**?

Teacher Bio

You reflected on your favorite teacher and what made them so great.
Now, let's learn more about **YOU** and what makes you a great teacher, too.



Write & draw yourself as a teacher.

What are some **words** that describe you?

Your Name: _____

How would **YOU** get others **excited** about something?

What makes **YOU** **special** as a teacher?

How will **YOU** make learning **FUN**?

EcoQuest Finale!

On this EcoQuest, you have learned SO MUCH about amazing organisms and how they eat in your home habitat.

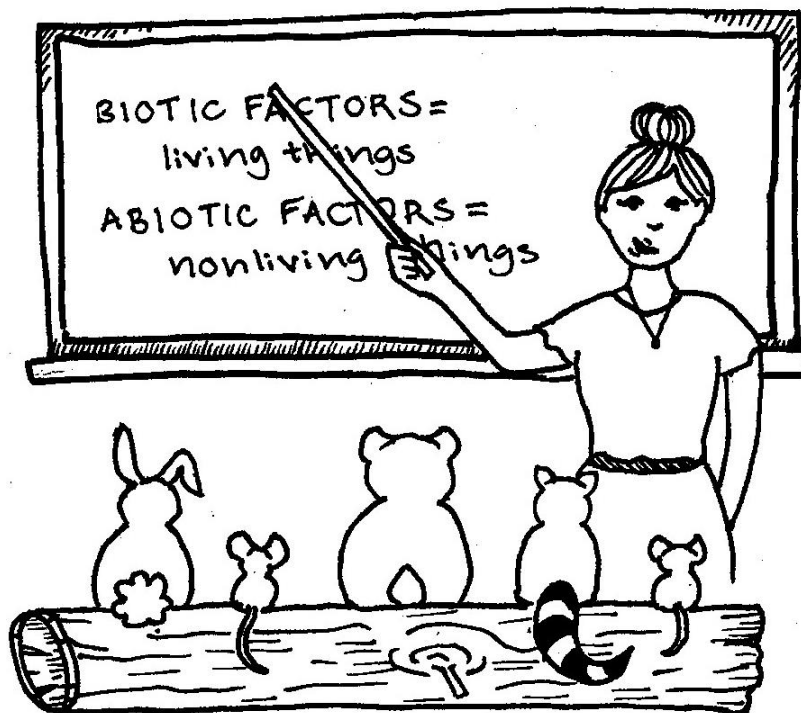
You've tuned in all 5 of your senses to observe things no one else might notice...

You've practiced field methods to catch all sorts of insects and other critters...

You've proven that you can do a field experiment *just like* a field ecologist.

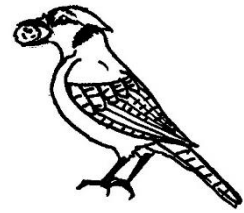
Not only that, you've wowed everyone with your creative skills as an ecologist artist!

Now it's your turn to **TEACH** others about
Who is Coming Over for Dinner for a Fantastic Feast
in your home ecosystem!



Brainstorm!

You can teach about anything you thought was really **amazing** during EcoQuest. The questions below are to help get your creative juices flowing...but these are just ideas. Follow your heart!



What are some of the coolest animals you learned about during EcoQuest?
(Remember, bugs are animals, too!)

What animal did you discover during EcoQuest that you want to teach others about?

What was amazing about this animal?

What did this animal eat?

Can you think of a really interesting food web that you discovered? Do you think you could teach others about the ENTIRE food web of your home ecosystem?

What was your favorite field method?

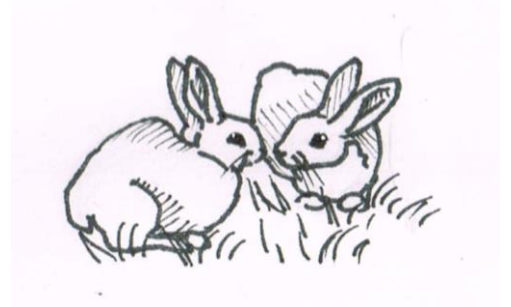
What was the most fun thing you did in EcoQuest? Is there a way that you could teach someone else how to do it, too?

Close your eyes. Take a **snapshot in your mind** of your very favorite moment from EcoQuest. When you think of it, draw or write about it below:

Make Your Own Field Guide

A field guide can help someone learn about nature. You might have used a field guide to look something up for EcoQuest! Field guides have photos and descriptions to help someone recognize and identify new animals, plants, and even fungi!

Now that you've discovered a ton of new organisms, can YOU make a field guide for your home ecosystem or schoolyard to teach others about heterotrophs?



How do I make a field guide?

Choose 10 heterotrophs. (*Remember, a heterotroph is something that eats something else! Like...A caterpillar eats a leaf. A butterfly eats nectar.*) Choose things from your local ecosystem that you thought were the most interesting during EcoQuest.

This journal will be your field guide. On each page, you can share the following about your heterotroph:

- A colorful drawing of the heterotroph
- Where does it live? – Did you find it on or under the ground, in trees, in a bush?
- *What* does it eat? *How* does it eat it?
- What is special about its body that will help someone identify it?
- What is one interesting behavior that will help someone identify it? This could be how it moves, how it sounds, how it camouflages...anything!

Now, create a cover page. Draw your ecosystem in the empty space. Let's get to work!

Field Guide to

Author:

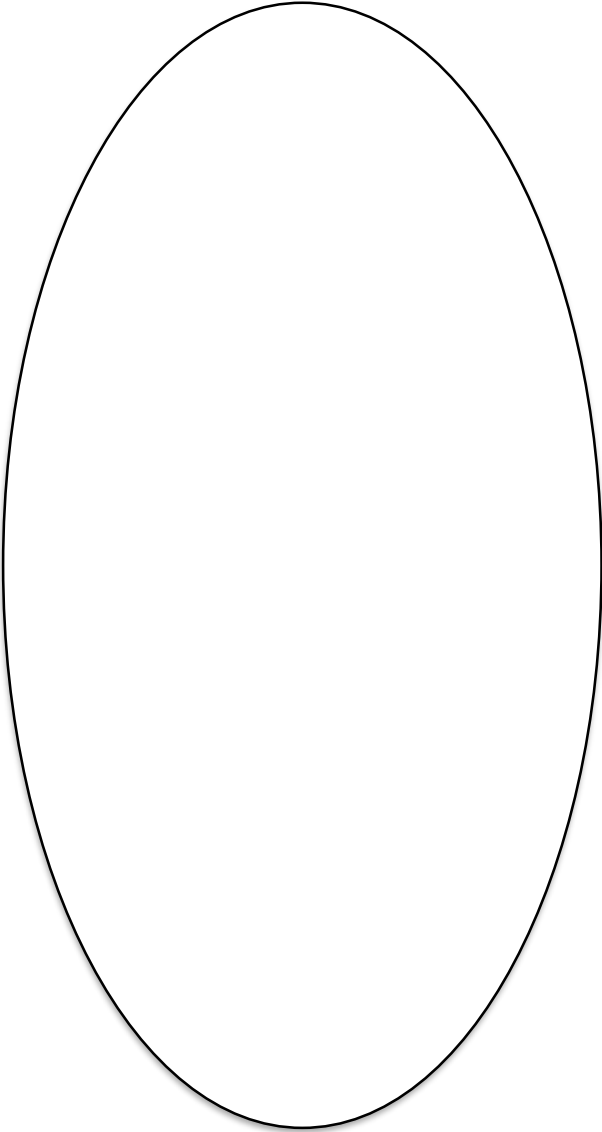
Location:

Illustration of My Ecosystem

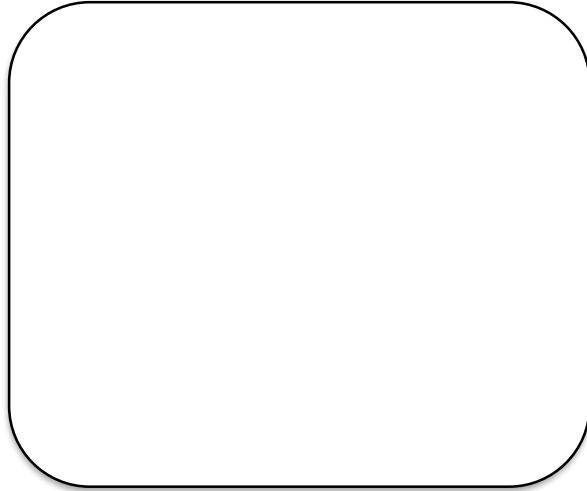
Name of Heterotroph

Identification

Draw and color it! What characteristics will help others know what it is?

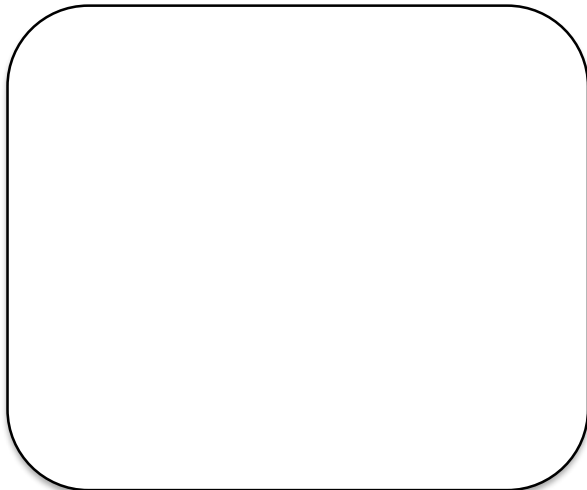


Where does it live?



What does it eat?

Draw, write, or even tape the type of leaf or seed it eats in the space below!



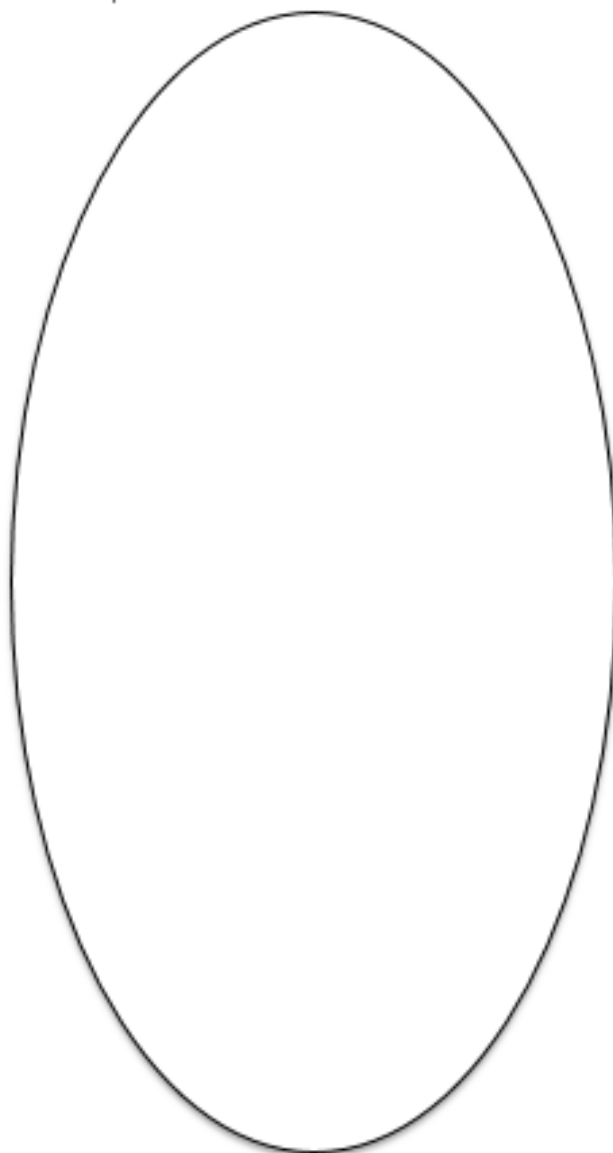
Fun Facts! What do you think is *fascinating* about this organism?

A large, empty rounded rectangle intended for a student to write fun facts about the organism. It is located at the bottom of the worksheet, below the 'Fun Facts!' heading.

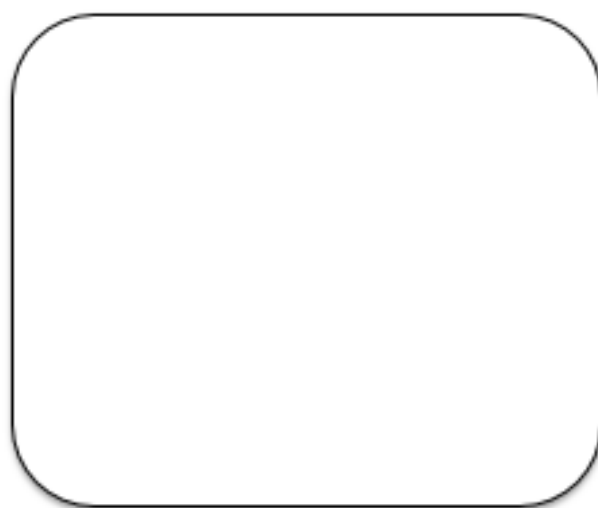
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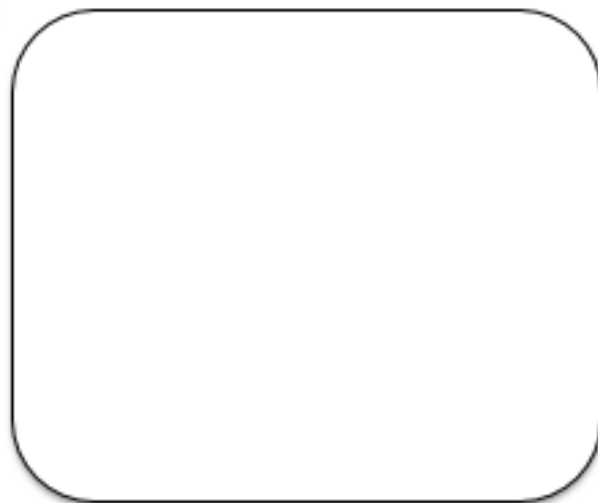


Where does it live?



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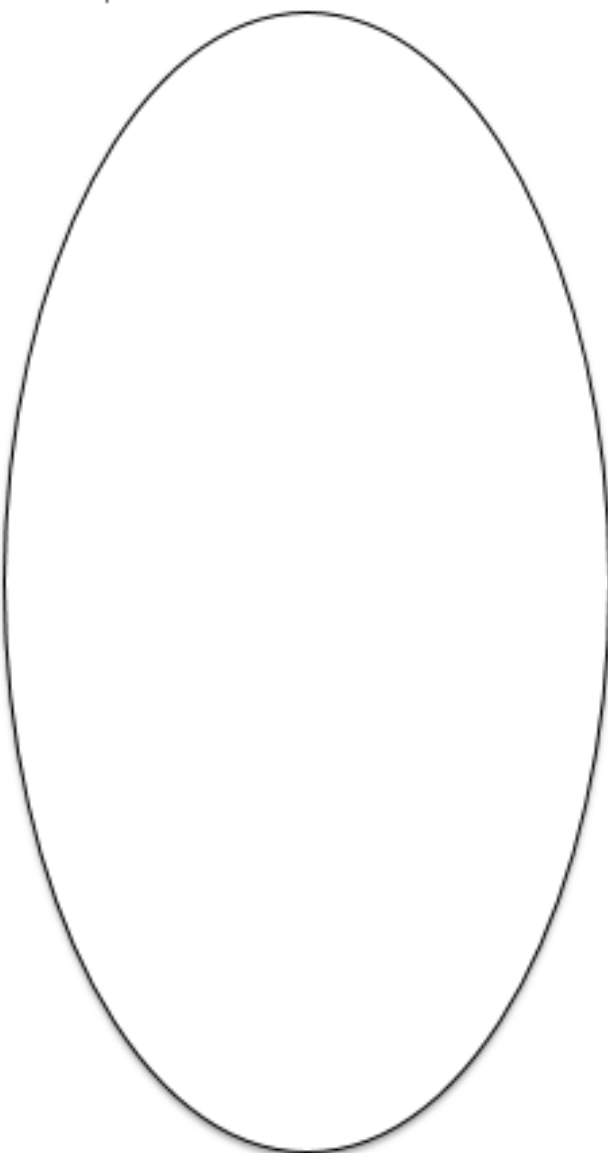


Fun Facts! *What do you think is fascinating about this organism?*

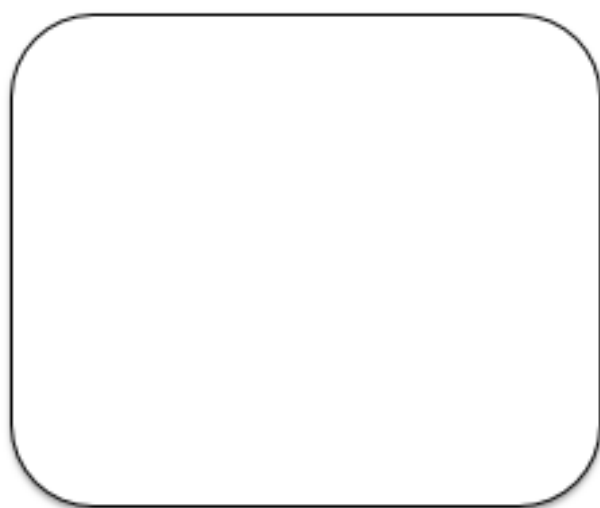
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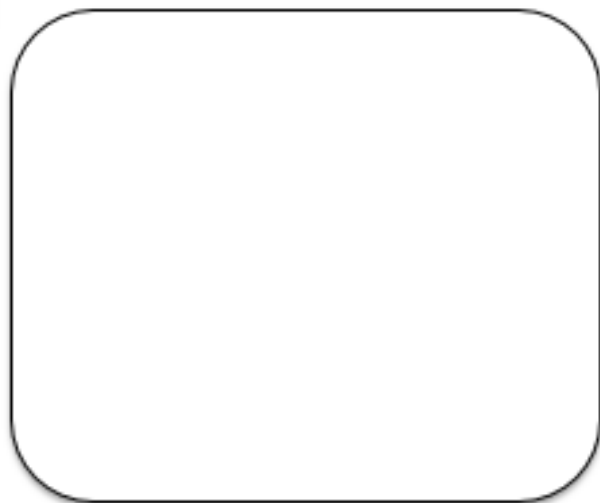


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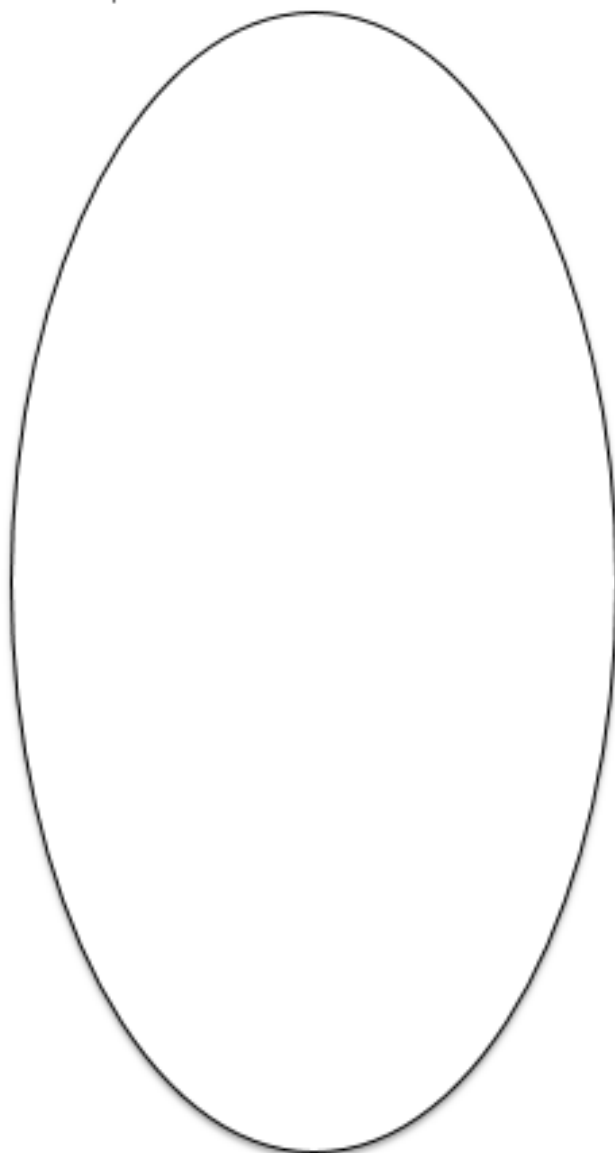


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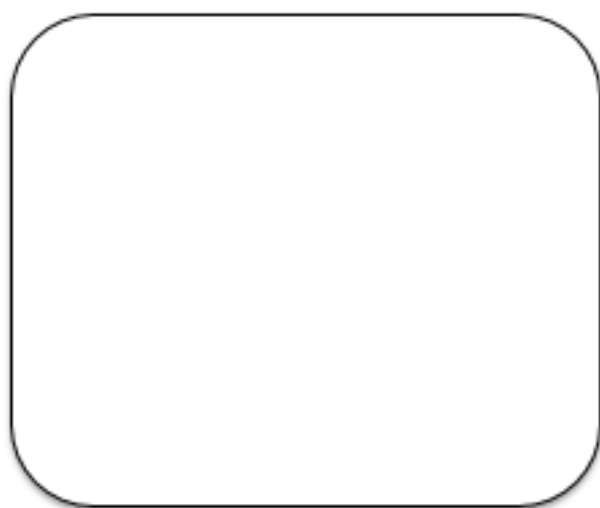
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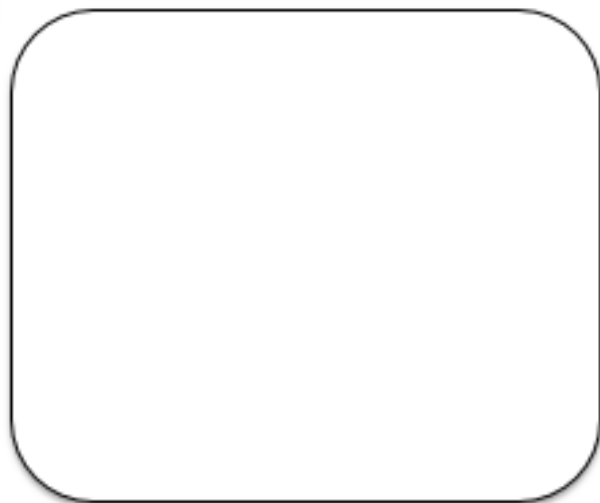


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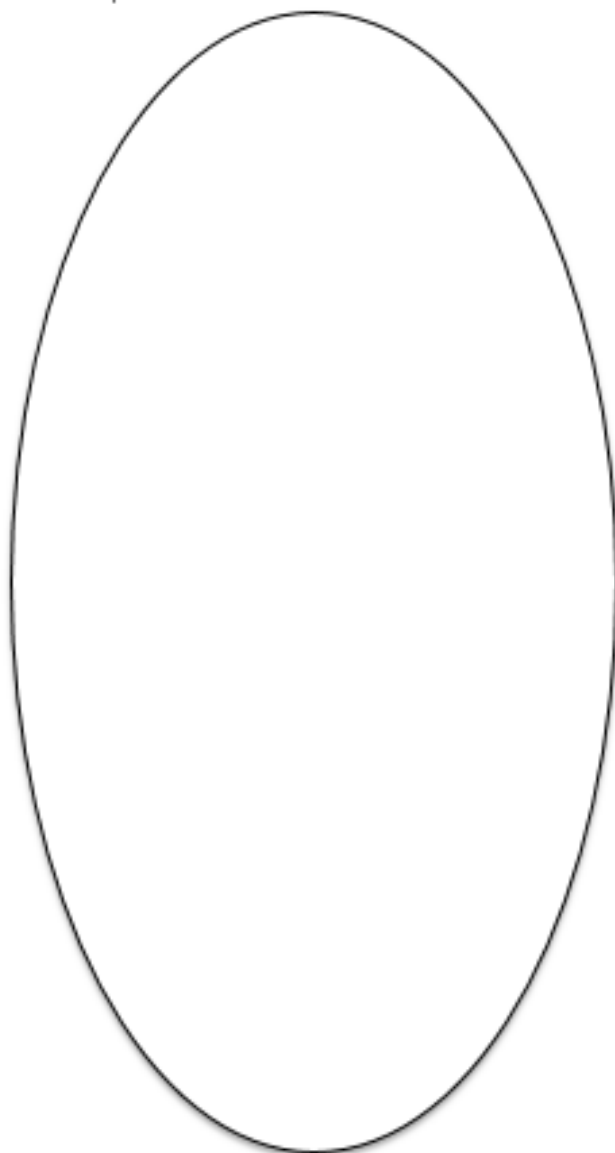


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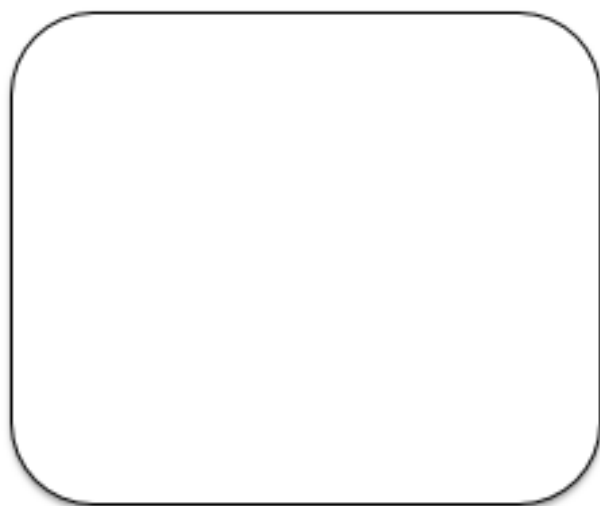
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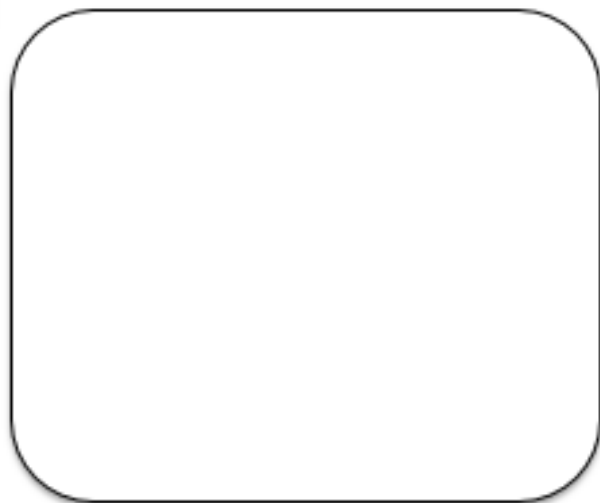


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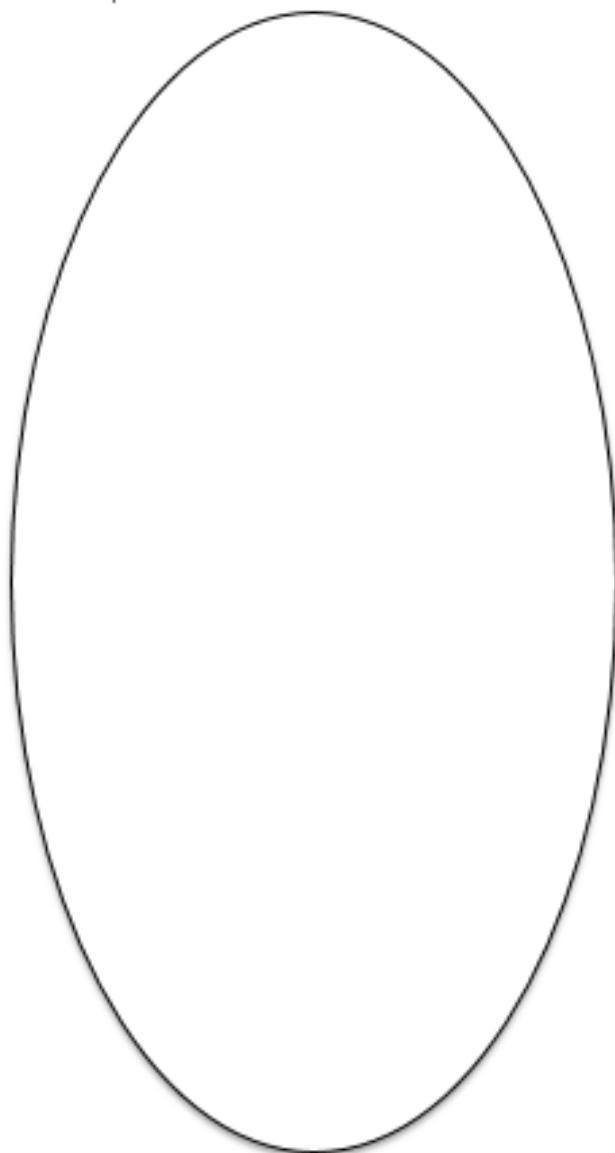


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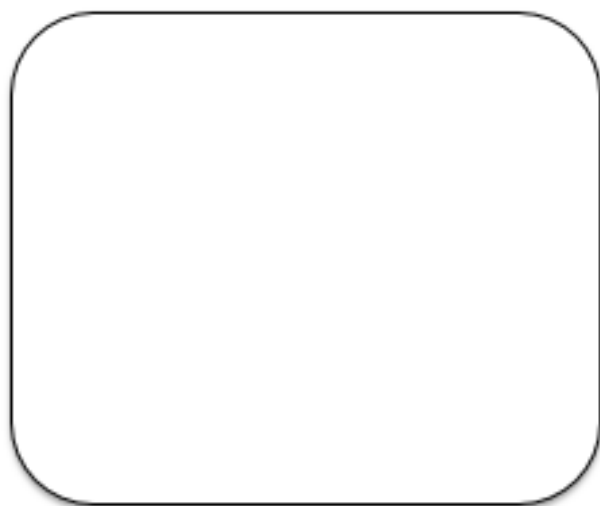
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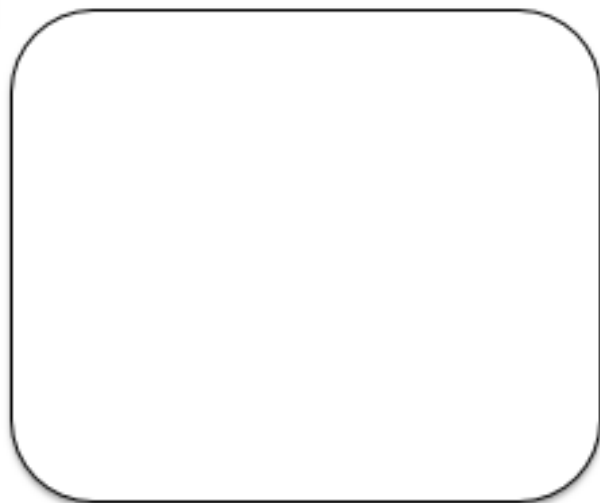


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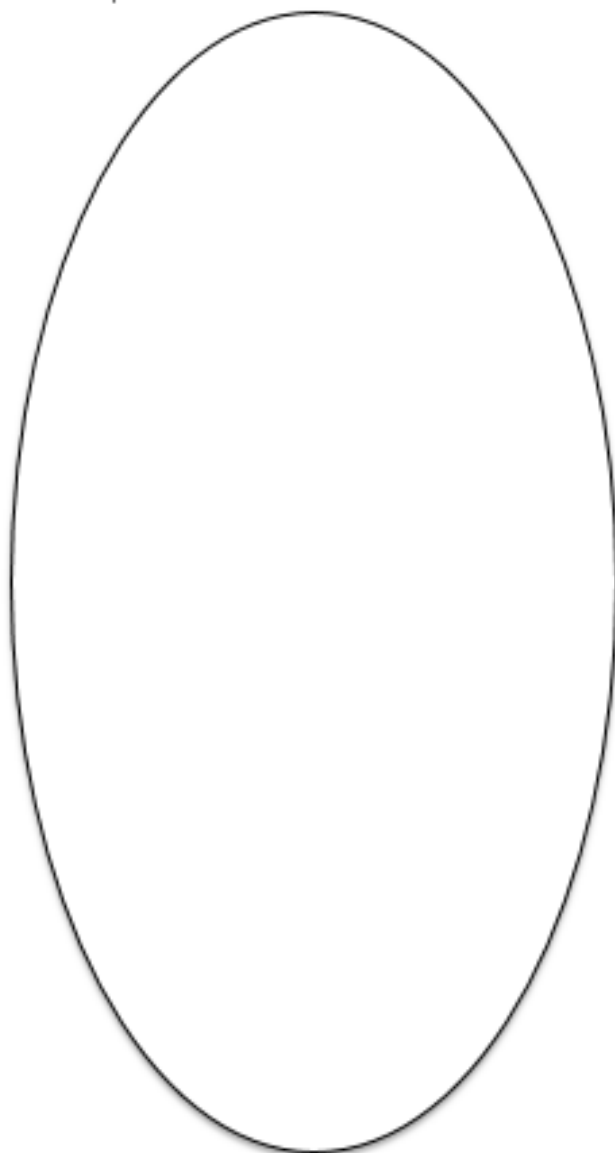


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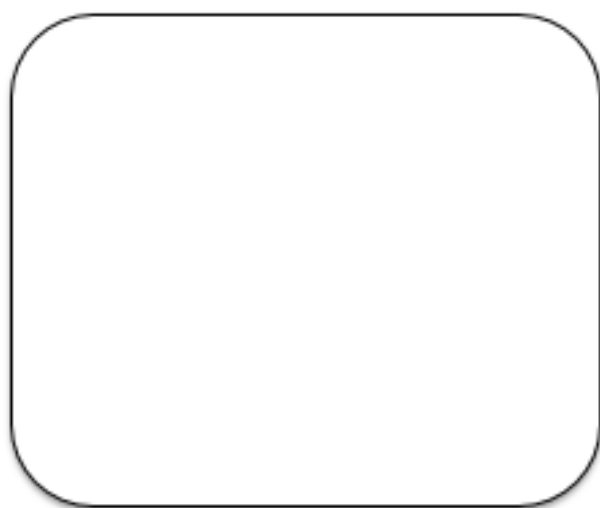
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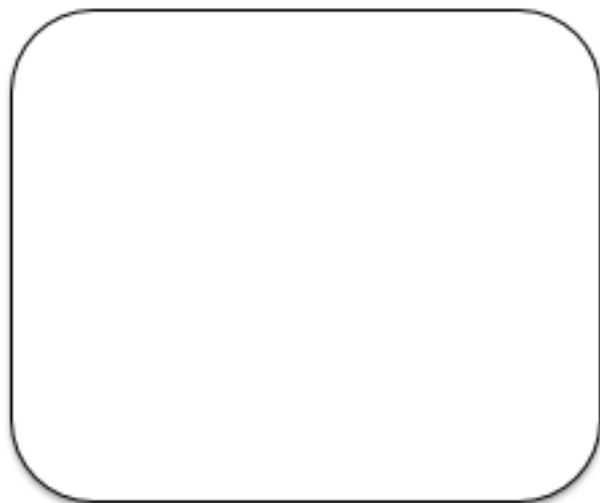


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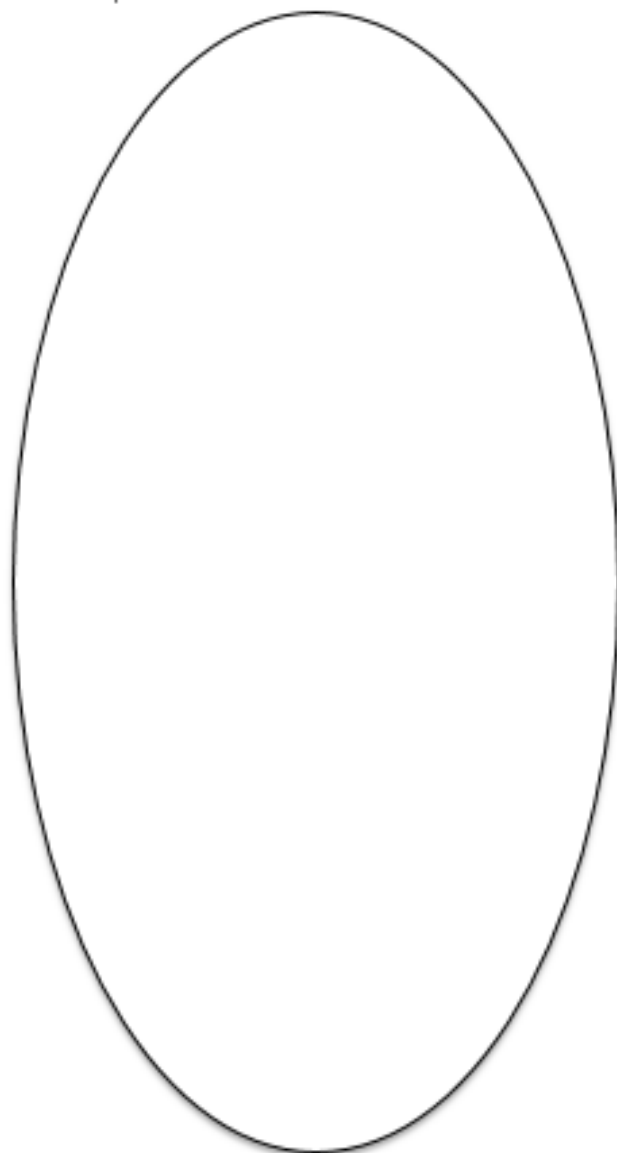


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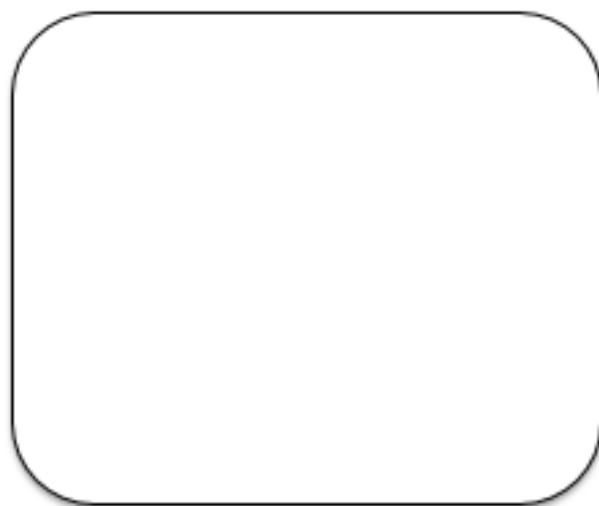
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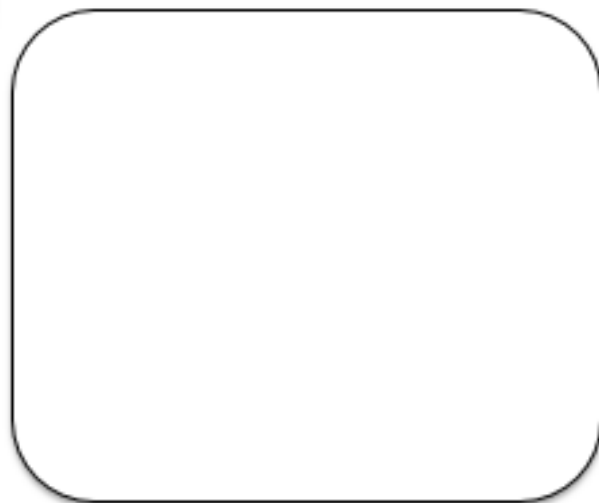


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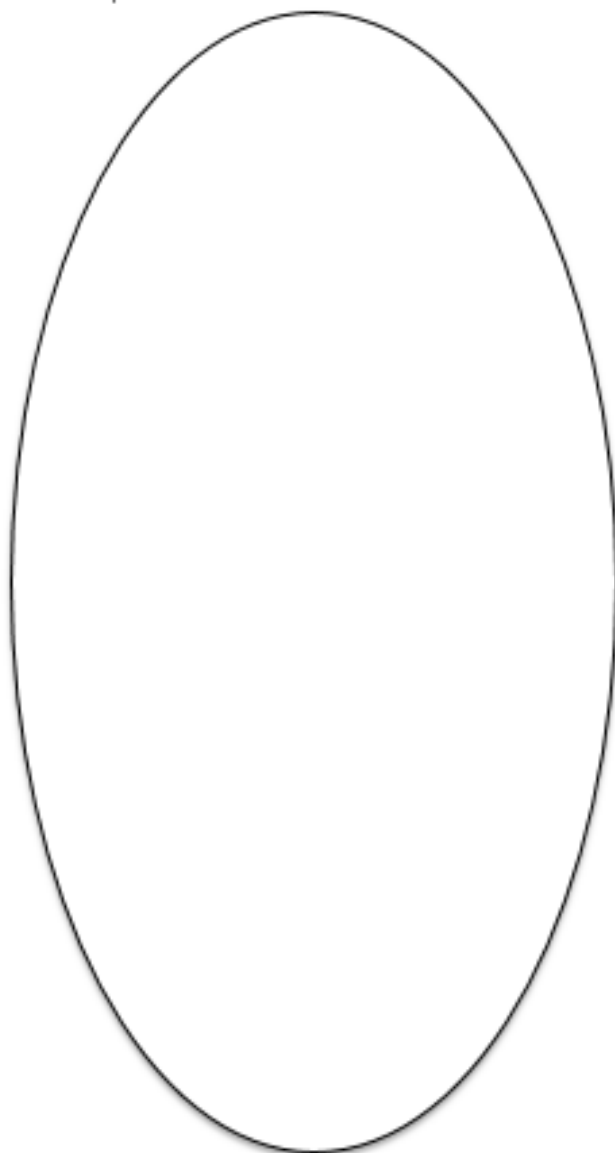


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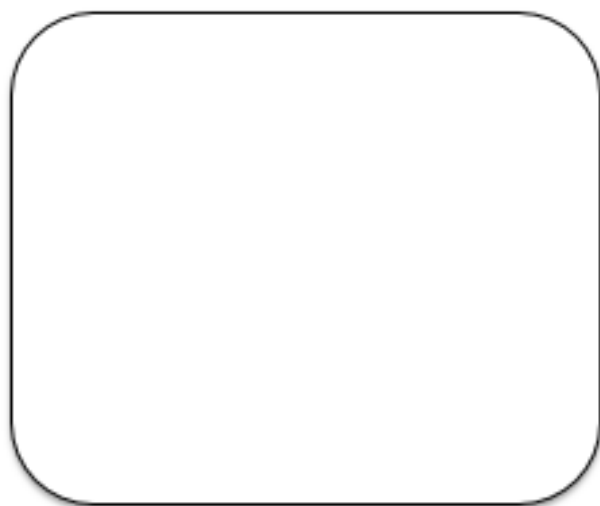
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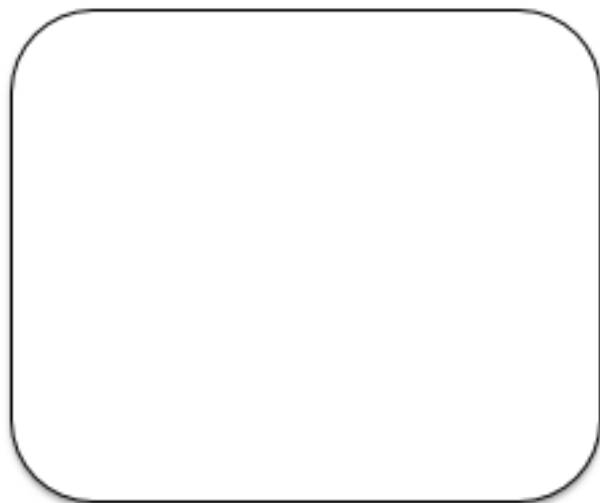


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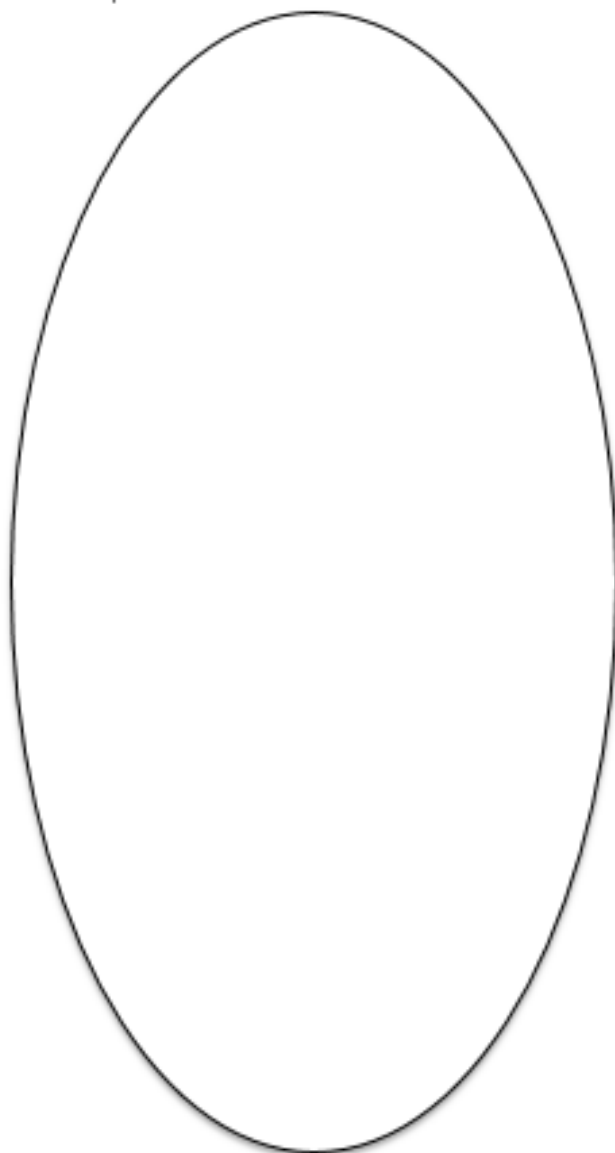


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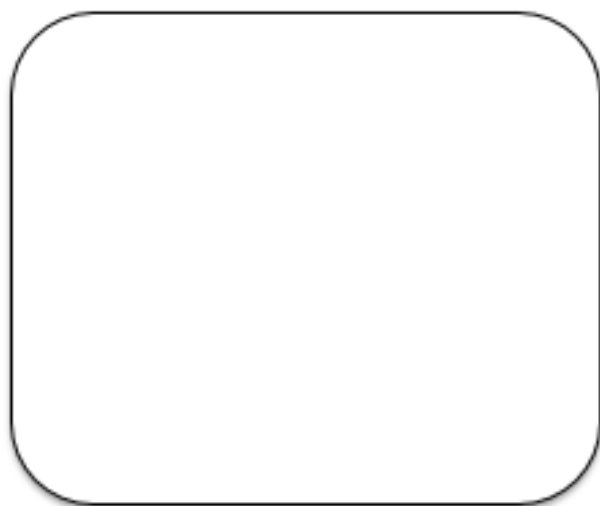
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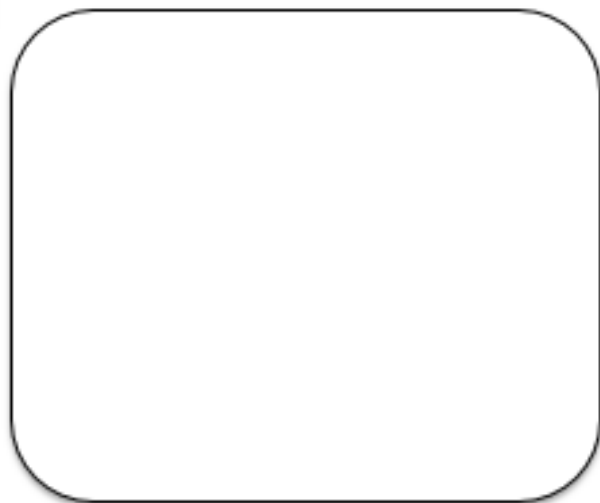


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Teacher Badge Eco-Challenge Check

✓	Challenge Steps	Eco-Explorer Signature	Adult Initials
	Before you begin your EcoQuest Field Guide , write some ideas of the animals you'd like to include.		
	Make a creative EcoQuest Field Guide that teaches someone about animals and what they eat!		
	Share your EcoQuest Field Guide with family or friends.		
	*Bonus: Share your EcoQuest Field Guide virtually with other EcoExplorers on Padlet!		

Field Notes



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

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

Ashley Alred, Cary Education Program Leader

Before joining Cary, 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 is excited to devote 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!

Last year in summer 2019, Amelia became a summer camp instructor for the 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 as an instructor for EcoQuest. During the school year, Amelia is a high school science teacher. This fall, Amelia will be teaching a trifecta of Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Science to high school students at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, New York.