

Focus Questions Grade Four

Ecosystems (STC)

Lesson 1: *Thinking about Ecosystems*

How do living things depend on each other?

Lesson 2: *Setting Up the Terrarium*

How do you predict the living and nonliving things in the terrarium will change over time? How might they affect each other?

Lesson 3: *Setting Up the Aquarium*

What do aquatic organisms need in order to live?

Lesson 4: *Adding Animals to the Aquarium*

What is the role of plants and algae in an aquarium?

Lesson 5: *Observing the Completed Aquarium*

How do the living and nonliving things in the aquarium affect each other?

Lesson 6: *Adding Animals to the Terrarium*

What are the dependent and independent relationships in the terrarium?

Lesson 7: *Joining the Terrarium and Aquarium*

How do water and land ecosystems affect each other?

Lessons 8 & 9: *Upsetting the Stability and Reporting on Pollutants*

How does pollution made by humans affect the stability of an ecosystem or ecosystems?

Lessons 10 & 11: *Planning Pollution Experiments and Setting up Our Pollution Experiments*

What are the important things to consider in planning your own investigation about pollutants?

Lesson 12: *Observing Early Effects of Pollution*

What similarities and differences are you seeing with your ecocolumns and the control ecocolumn?

Ecosystems Focus Questions (Continued)

Lesson 13: *Where Do the Pollutants Go?*

Where do the pollutants go?

Lesson 14: *Drawing Conclusions about Our Experiment*

What are some of the problems in drawing conclusions about your investigation?

Lessons 15 & 16: *Examining a Real Environmental Problem and*

Holding the Mini-Conference: A Look at Trade-offs

How does a group effectively present solutions to people with different points of view?