



Modeling the Chihuahuan Desert Carbon Cycle Middle School

Overview

Students participate in multiple activities to develop a model illustrating the movement of one very important type of matter, carbon, through the Chihuahuan desert ecosystem. Hands-on activities with carbon dioxide sensors and data loggers emphasize respiration, photosynthesis, consumption, and decomposition in and around a simple desert food web.

Phenomena

How does carbon move among the living and nonliving parts of the ecosystem in the Chihuahuan Desert?

Next Generation Science Standards

MS-LS2-3 Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.

Science & Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Developing and using models	LS2.B Cycle of matter and energy transfer in ecosystems	Energy and matter
Constructing explanations and designing solutions		Systems and system models

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.4. Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics.

Date: _____

Asombro staff: _____