



Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Next Generation Stewards

Forest Ecosystem Model

The *Next Generation Stewards* curriculum broadens students' understanding of the connections among the parts of a Pacific Northwest forest. This video introduces the video series and focuses on two key concepts: (1) forests and systems of connections and (2) the important role of stewards as caretakers of these forests. Watch the full video: [Next Generation Stewards: Introduction](#).

Materials:

- Paper
- Markers or crayons

How to do this activity:

- 1) Think of a forest that you have been to and try to remember all of the abiotic (nonliving) and biotic (living) parts.
- 2) Draw that ecosystem! Be sure to include sunlight, air, water, soil, producers (plants), consumers (animals), and decomposers.
- 3) Consider the connections that exist between those parts and draw arrows to illustrate those connections. For example, you could draw an arrow from the sun to a tree because the tree gets energy from the sun; or from a salmonberry bush to a bear because the bear eats the berries.
- 4) Optional: If adding arrows to your drawing makes it messy and harder to understand, simplify your model by making a word map. Put your drawing and a blank piece of paper side by side. Write the name of each organism and the nonliving parts (light, air, water, soil) in roughly the same place where you see them in your drawing.

See examples on the next page.





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