

A Sense of Place *Worksheet*



What is your organism? _____

What does your organism need to survive in its habitat? _____

What does your organism eat? What eats it? _____

Does it rely on other beings to continue in this environment into the future? _____

Are there other living things that protect it or provide services to keep it healthy? _____

What does your organism give to its environment? _____

What does it take away? _____

How does your organism feel in its environment? _____

How do you feel in your environment? _____

Another Point of View

Hi!

I live in the soil. Well, really I live in moist, rich soil because my body requires a moist environment to remain moist itself. It can't be too wet, though, or I won't be able to breathe! (I breathe through my skin.)

I love soil! It is delicious - my favorite food. When I eat soil, it passes through my body and becomes richer in nutrients when it leaves my body through the other end. The plants I live around and under really love my nutritious castings. In exchange for this nutrition I provide for the plants, they grow big and healthy and provide shade for the ground under them. This helps stop water from evaporating from the soil, keeping it moist and cool for me.

The larger plants in my neighborhood, the trees and shrubs, drop their leaves in the fall. These leaves help keep the soil moist and keep it from getting too cold down here in the winter. The fallen leaves are also food for my coworkers, the beetles, fungi, bacteria and lots of others. After the leaves are decomposed by them, the soil becomes more nutritious. I love rich, dark soil.

The plants help me out in other ways too. Their roots reach through the soil toward water and nutrients, breaking up clumps and providing air spaces for me to breathe. Ahh, air. And I can thank the plants for the air too - for cleaning it, that is.

Sometimes I get a little too close to the parking lot after a rainstorm. Then, yuck! Runoff with gasoline and oil spreads into the soil. That can really make me sick. I know I should keep my distance, but it is fun to watch the kids at school getting on and off the buses. Some kids actually think I'm scary when they see me! Other kids try to dig my friends and me up to feed to fish. And I always have to look out for birds! I usually try to go deeper when I see anyone digging.

All and all, life is good down here in the soil. I have friends that have gone to live in farms and started families of their own. But as for me, right now, I like it here on the school grounds.

Can you guess who I am?