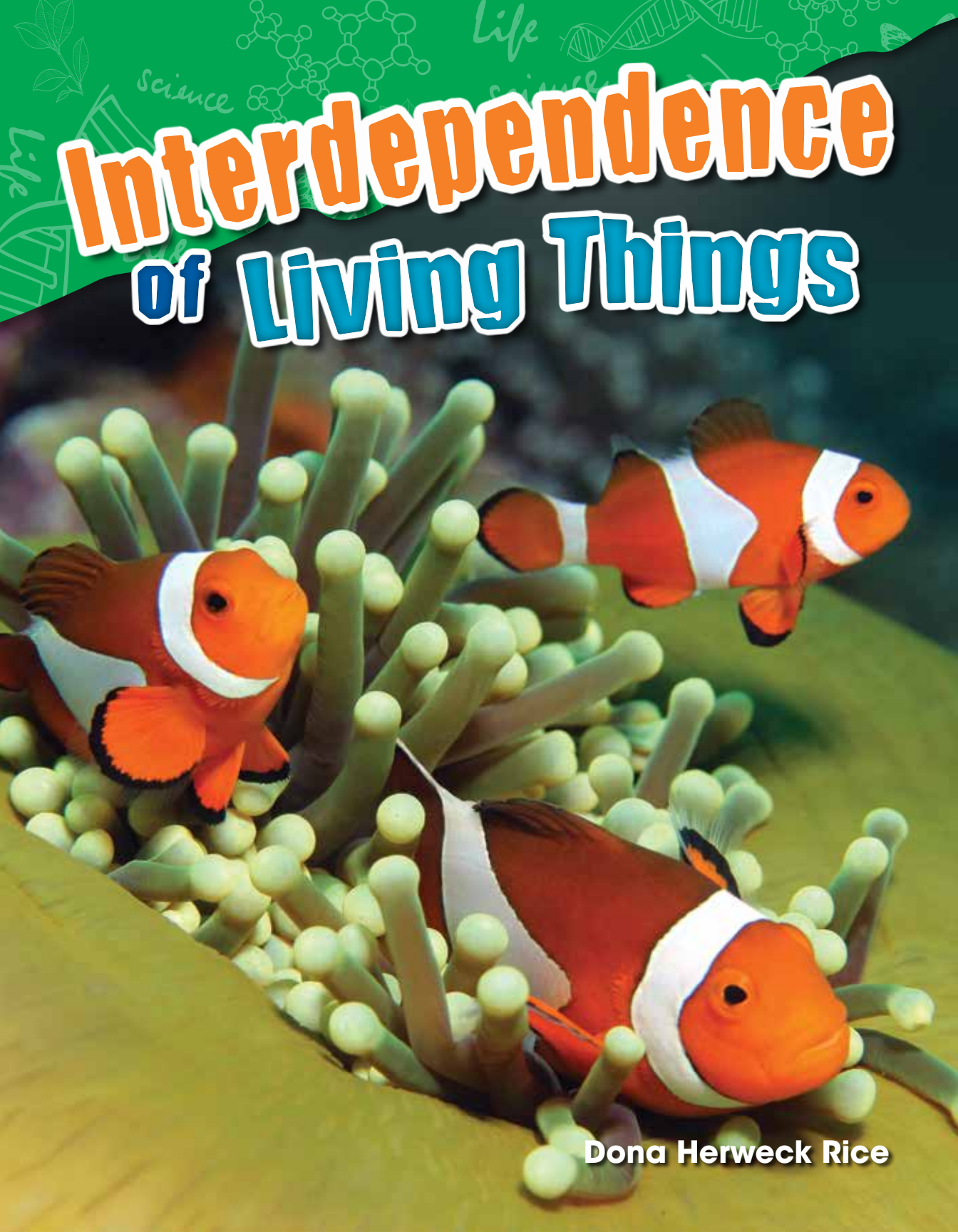
# Interdependence of Living Things

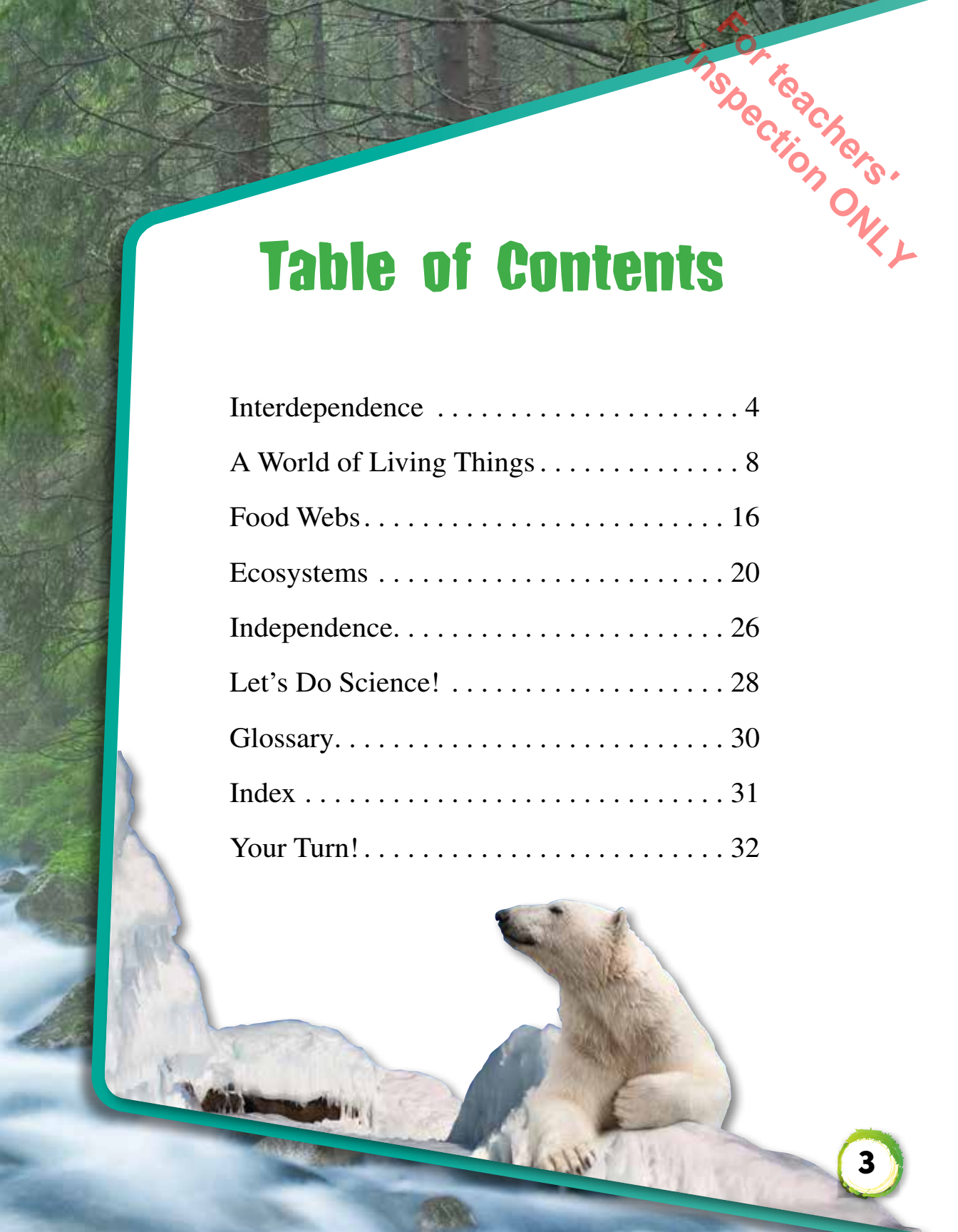


Dona Herweck Rice

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# Table of Contents

Interdependence . . . . . 4
A World of Living Things . . . . . 8
Food Webs . . . . . 16
Ecosystems . . . . . 20
Independence . . . . . 26
Let's Do Science! . . . . . 28
Glossary . . . . . 30
Index . . . . . 31
Your Turn! . . . . . 32



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# Interdependence

It's a big word! *Interdependence*. What does it mean? Let's break it down.

*Inter-* is a prefix, or word beginning. It means "between or together." Knowing what a prefix means helps you know what the word means.

## Inter-

Since you know what *inter-* means, can you figure out what these words mean?

- interrupt
- interview



Blocks are interdependent. You need many blocks to build something.

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*Depend* means "to rely or count on." *-Ence* is a suffix, or word ending. It means "a state or condition."

Put them together! *Interdependence* means "a state in which two or more things rely on each other."

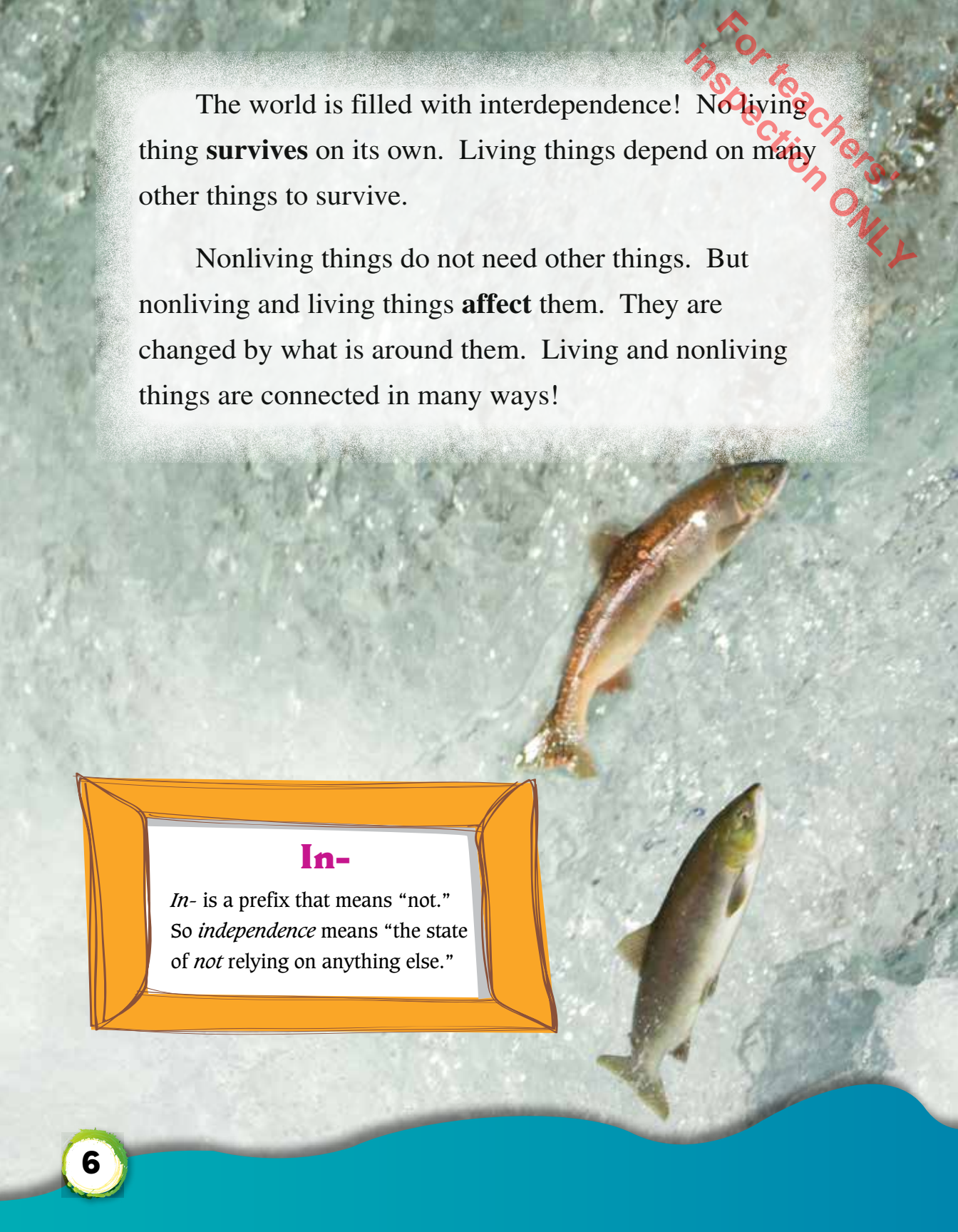


These logs are interdependent. Each log needs the other logs for the house to stand.

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The world is filled with interdependence! No living thing **survives** on its own. Living things depend on many other things to survive.

Nonliving things do not need other things. But nonliving and living things **affect** them. They are changed by what is around them. Living and nonliving things are connected in many ways!



## In-

*In-* is a prefix that means "not." So *independence* means "the state of *not* relying on anything else."

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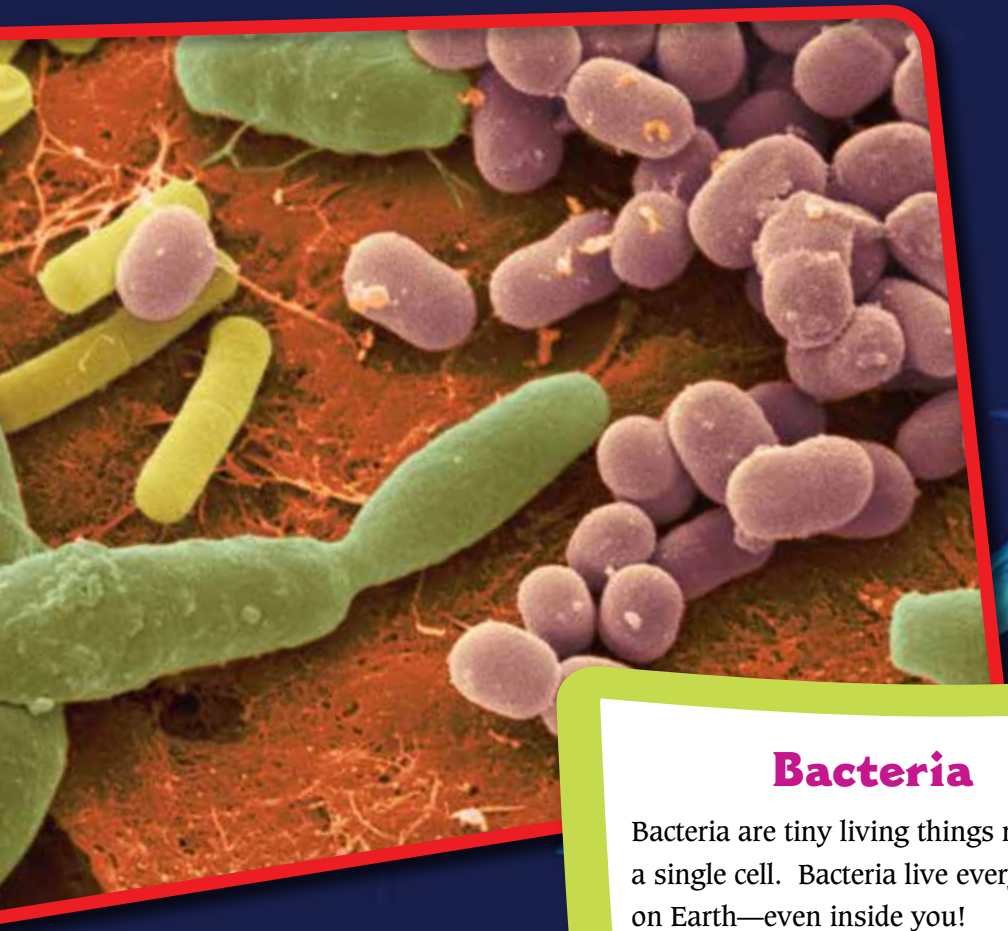


Water is a nonliving thing. But all living things need water.

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# A World of Living Things

Life is everywhere on Earth! Wherever you go, you will find it. You may not see it, but it is there. Whether plant, animal, or **bacteria** (bak-TEER-ee-uh), living things are all around you.



## Bacteria

Bacteria are tiny living things made of a single cell. Bacteria live everywhere on Earth—even inside you!

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Are you traveling through the ocean? You will find living things there. They are everywhere, down to the deepest depths. Are you traveling through the sky? You will find living things there. They are everywhere, for miles up into the clouds. You will find life whether you travel to the freezing poles or to the driest deserts. The world is full of living things!



Living things can be found in many places.

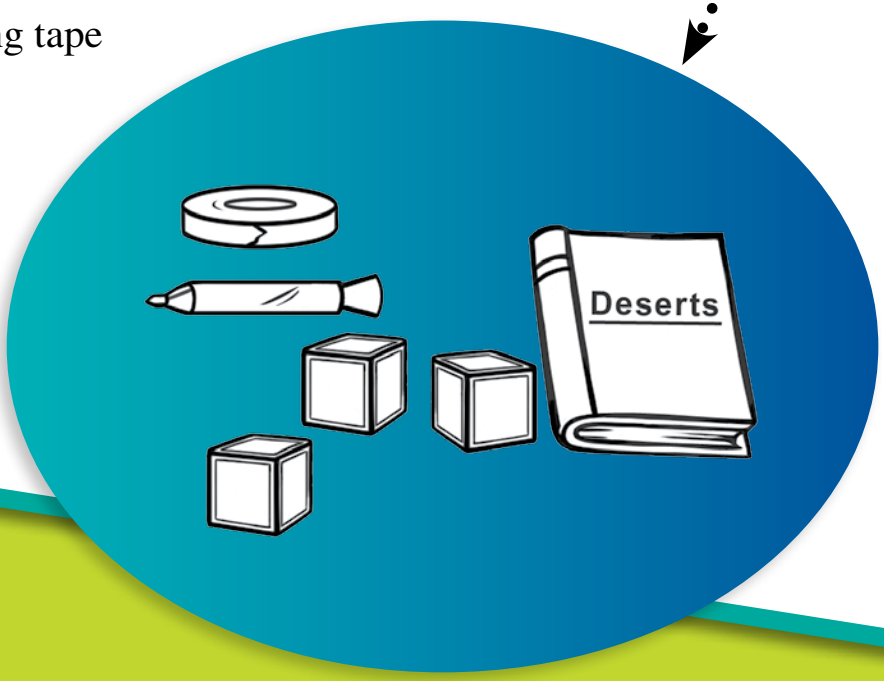
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# Let's Do Science!

How are the parts of an ecosystem related? See for yourself!

## What to Get

- ❍ blocks
- ❍ book or website about an ecosystem
- ❍ marker
- ❍ masking tape



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# What to Do

1. Read about an ecosystem and the living and nonliving things found there.




2. Write the name of each living and nonliving thing on pieces of tape. Attach the tape to blocks. The blocks will stand for those things. If there is a lot of something, label more blocks. If there is a little, label fewer blocks.




3. Stack the blocks in a tower. The things that there are more of should be on the bottom. The things that there are fewer of should be on top. (The floor can be the sun.)




4. What happens if you pull out one block or more? What does the tower show you about ecosystems?

