



## Grades 9–12

### 3.1.9-12.M Life Science: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

**Students who demonstrate understanding can** *evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.*

**Clarifying Statement:** Examples of changes in ecosystem conditions could include modest biological or physical changes, such as moderate hunting or a seasonal flood; and extreme changes, such as volcanic eruption or sea level rise.

**Assessment Boundary:** N/A

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)	Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)	Crosscutting Concepts (CCC)
<p><b>Engaging in Argument from Evidence</b></p> <p>Engaging in argument from evidence in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using appropriate and sufficient evidence and scientific reasoning to defend and critique claims and explanations about natural and designed worlds. Arguments may also come from current scientific or historical episodes in science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning behind currently accepted explanations or solutions to determine the merits of arguments.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Connections to Nature of Science</b></p> <p><b>Scientific Knowledge is Open to Revision in Light of New Evidence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific argumentation is a mode of logical discourse used to clarify the strength of relationships between ideas and evidence that may result in revision of an explanation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A complex set of interactions within an ecosystem can keep its numbers and types of organisms relatively constant over long periods of time under stable conditions. If a modest biological or physical disturbance to an ecosystem occurs, it may return to its more or less original status (i.e., the ecosystem is resilient), as opposed to becoming a very different ecosystem. Extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population, however, can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stability and Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Much of science deals with constructing explanations of how things change and how they remain stable.</li> </ul>

**Pennsylvania Context:** Examples of Pennsylvania context include but are not limited to local connections to Pennsylvania natural ecosystem changes, such as forest succession, natural disasters, and human impacts such as those related to resource extraction and use resulting in habitat destruction.

**PA Career Ready Skills:** Evaluate consequences from a personal, and civic perspective to inform decision-making.

## Connections to Other Standards Content and Practices



Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
<b>Agriculture (AFNR)</b>	CS.02.02.01.a: Identify and summarize the components within AFNR systems (e.g., Animal Systems: health, nutrition, genetics, etc.; Natural Resources Systems: soil, water, etc.).
<b>Science, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (NAAEE)</b>	9-12 Strand 2.1.B. Earth's living systems: Learners describe basic population dynamics, genetic mechanisms behind biological evolution, and the importance of diversity in living systems. They explain how changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geosphere affect the biosphere. They describe how human sustainability is dependent on the biosphere. 9-12 Strand 3.1.B. Sorting out the consequences of issues: Learners evaluate the consequences of a broad range of environmental changes, conditions, and issues on environmental quality and long-term sustainability. They identify environmental justice and social equity implications.
<b>PA Core Standards: ELA</b>	CC.3.5.9-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions. CC.3.5.11-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. CC.3.5.9-10.G: Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., a table or chart) and translate information expressed visually or mathematically (e.g., in an equation) into words. CC.3.5.11-12.G: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem. CC.3.5.9-10.H: Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claim or a recommendation for solving a scientific or technical problem. CC.3.5.11-12.H: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information.
<b>PA Core Standards and Practices: Math</b>	MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. CC.2.4.HS.B.1: Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable. CC.2.4.HS.B.4: Recognize and evaluate random processes underlying statistical experiments. CC.2.4.HS.B.5: Make inferences and justify conclusions based on sample surveys, experiments, and observational studies.
<b>PA Standards: Social Studies</b>	7.2.12.B: Analyze the significance of physical processes in shaping the character of places and regions.
<b>Educational Technology (ISTE)</b>	1.3. Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
<b>Technology and Engineering (ITEEA)</b>	STEL-10: Assess how similarities and differences among scientific, mathematical, engineering, and technological knowledge and skills contributed to the design of a product or system.