Grade: 6-8
Discipline: Science
Length: 2-3 classes

Target:

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

Essential Question(s):

- How do living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) factors interact to shape the health of a stream ecosystem?
- What roles do different organisms play in a stream ecosystem, and why are these roles important for ecosystem balance?
- How do producers, consumers, and decomposers work together in a stream environment to cycle energy and nutrients?

Objective:

Students will independently explore the components of a stream ecosystem by interacting with a slide presentation. They will identify and explain the roles of biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors, and describe how these factors interact to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem.

Materials/Resources:

- Stream Ecosystems (Google Slides)

Lesson Summary:

An independent learning activity where students can self pace. They will explore the different components of a stream ecosystem- the different roles organisms play as well as looking at different features that impact a stream- such as rifles, runs, and pools.

This could take students a couple days to go through each slide and complete the videos and activities on each slide. Great for sub plans or to introduce stream ecosystems. This is usually accompanied with a Stream Ecosystem Food Web Project.