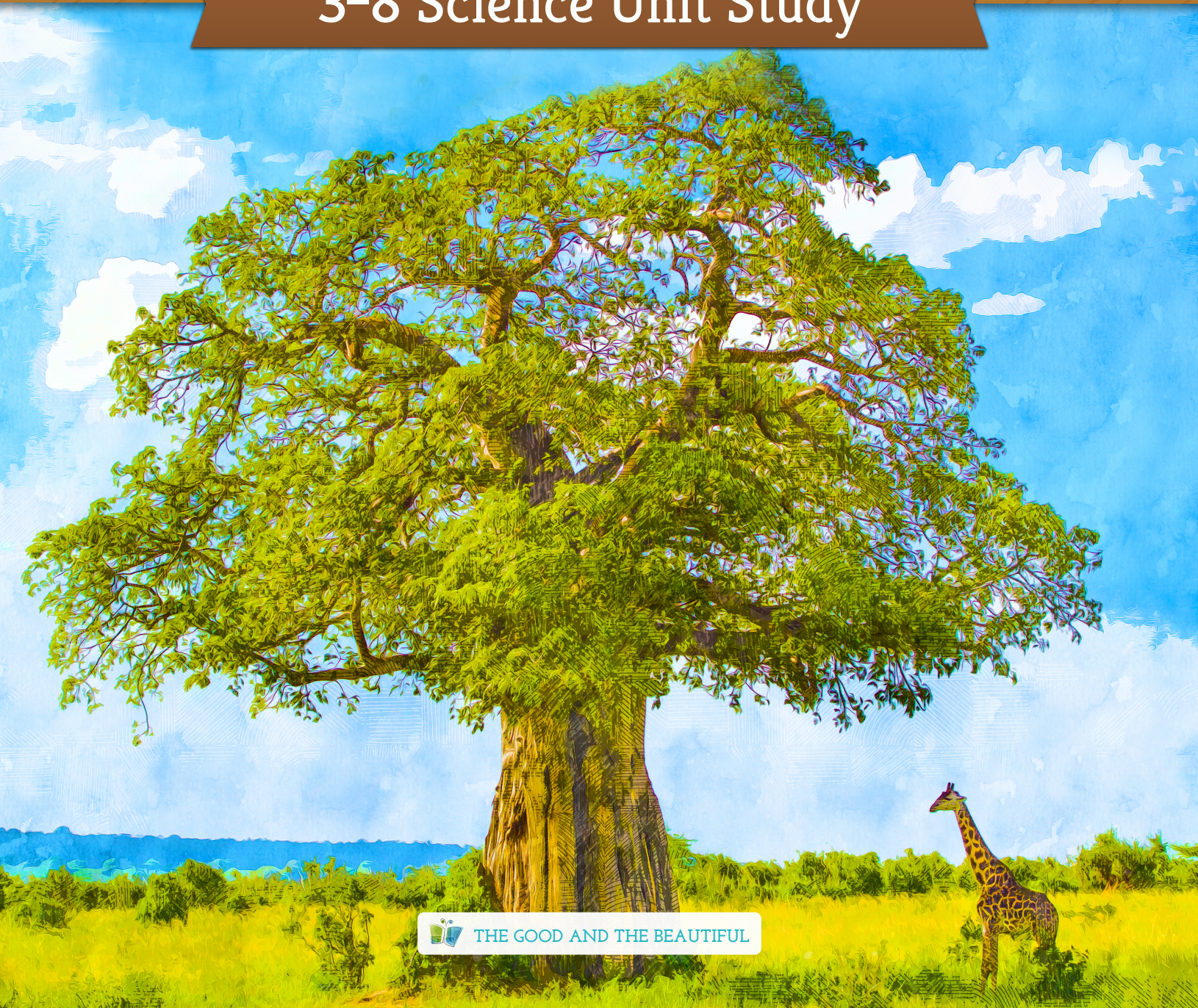


# ECOSYSTEMS

3-8 Science Unit Study



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

# Ecosystems

CREATED BY THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL TEAM



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# Unit Information

## Student Journal



All The Good and the Beautiful science units include activities in a student journal. Each student should have his or her own student journal, and the parent or teacher will direct the student regarding when to complete the activities in the lessons. Student journals can be purchased by going to [goodandbeautiful.com/science](http://goodandbeautiful.com/science) and clicking on the *Ecosystems* unit link.

## Science Wall



All The Good and the Beautiful science units include vocabulary words to be placed on your science wall, which is a wall or trifold presentation board in your learning area on which you can attach the vocabulary words and other images. Cut out the vocabulary word cards at the beginning of the unit. The course will indicate when to place them on the wall.

## Lesson Preparation



All The Good and the Beautiful science units include easy-to-follow lesson preparation directions at the beginning of each lesson.

## Activities



Many of The Good and the Beautiful science lessons involve hands-on activities. An adult should always closely supervise children as they participate in the activities to ensure they are following all necessary safety procedures.



## Unit Videos



Some lessons include videos that were created by The Good and the Beautiful. Have a device available that is capable of playing the videos from [goodandbeautiful.com/sciencevideos](http://goodandbeautiful.com/sciencevideos) or from the Good and Beautiful Homeschool app.

## Content for Older Children



Some lessons include extra content that is more applicable for older children (grades 7–8). Parents or teachers may choose to skip this content if instructing only younger children.

## Content for Younger Children



Some lessons include extra content that is more applicable for younger children (grades 3–6). Parents or teachers may choose to skip this content if instructing only older children.

## Versions

New discoveries are being made on an ongoing basis. This course is reviewed and revised periodically to keep information as up to date as possible. This version is the third edition of this unit.

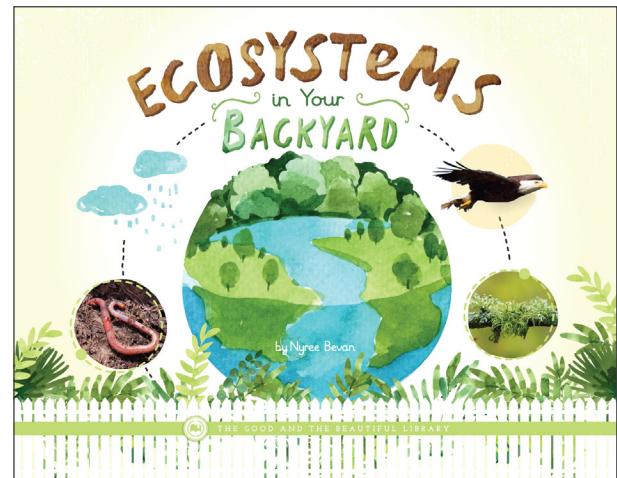


# Read-Aloud Book Pack

The books below are optional read-aloud books that complement this unit. These books can be purchased as a book pack by going to [goodandbeautiful.com/science](http://goodandbeautiful.com/science) and clicking on the *Ecosystems* unit link.



*Elf Owl and His Ecosystem*  
By Megan Noel



*Ecosystems in Your Backyard*  
By Nyree Bevan



## CORRELATED BOOKS

The Good and the Beautiful Library has several books that correlate well with the *Ecosystems* unit. It can be a wonderful experience for children to read level-appropriate books related to the subjects they are learning. The library includes both fiction and nonfiction books that are organized according to reading level. Find the correlated books by going to [goodandbeautiful.com/science](http://goodandbeautiful.com/science) and clicking on the *Ecosystems* unit product page.

# Lesson Extensions

## How the Extensions Work

Each lesson has an optional lesson extension for children in grades 7–8. Complete the lesson with all the children, and then have the older children complete the self-directed lesson extension. These extensions are located in the *Grades 7–8 Student Journal*.

## Answer Key

The answer key for the lesson extensions can be found on the free Good and Beautiful Homeschool app in the science section. Visit [goodandbeautiful.com/apps](http://goodandbeautiful.com/apps) for information on accessing the app. The app can be accessed from a computer, phone, or tablet.

## Flexibility

The amount of time it will take to complete each lesson extension will vary for each child. The average time is about 10–15 minutes per extension. Parents/teachers and children may choose to omit parts of the lesson extension if desired. Encourage the children to stretch their capabilities, but also reduce work if needed.

## Taking Notes

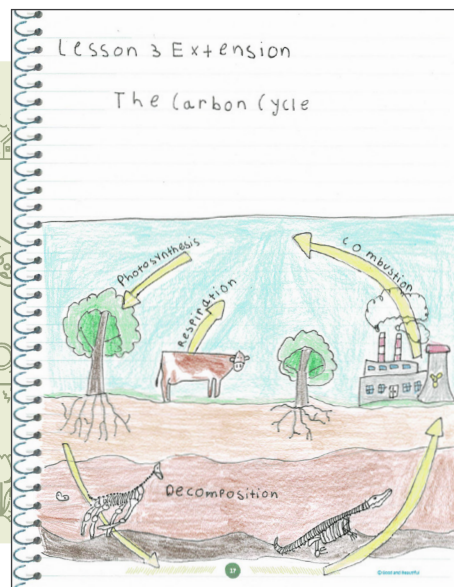
Some of the grades 7–8 lesson extensions have the children summarize the material read. Teach the children to look for key information and summarize the most important points. Students can also add notes with their thoughts and the facts that are most interesting to them.

## Optional Grades 7–8 Reading Book

We recommend *The Amazon Rainforest* by Elizabeth Thuernagle as extra reading for students in grades 7–8. This book can be purchased by going to [goodandbeautiful.com/science](http://goodandbeautiful.com/science) and clicking on the *Ecosystems* unit link.



*The Amazon Rainforest*  
By Elizabeth Thuernagle



# Supplies Needed



You will need the following supplies for **activities**. There are no experiments in this unit.

## Lesson 1

- $\frac{1}{8}$ -tsp measuring spoon
- Small amount of honey

## Lesson 2

- Household items to display, such as a sun hat, scarf, sunglasses, garden gloves, mittens, and umbrella
- Green grapes (optional)
- Small pretzel sticks (optional)
- Banana slices (optional)
- Animal crackers (optional)
- Strawberries (optional)

## Lesson 3

- Drawer full of silverware (or another type of drawer with organizers)
- Scissors
- Glue

## Lesson 4

- None

## Lesson 5

- Cookie sheet (to catch any spills, optional)
- 1 c uncooked rice
- 1-c,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -c,  $\frac{1}{3}$ -c,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -c, and  $\frac{1}{8}$ -c measuring cups (see Trophic Levels Activity note)
- Crayons or colored pencils

## Lesson 6

- None

## Lesson 7

- Scissors
- Glue

## Lesson 8

- 2 clear jars or glasses full of water
- Spoon
- 2 Tbsp salt
- Glue
- 1 sponge per child (optional)
- 1 plastic plate per child (optional)
- Grass seed (lawn grass or another quick-growing grass, such as wheat, optional)
- Container for each child, such as an empty food storage container (optional)

## Lesson 9

- None