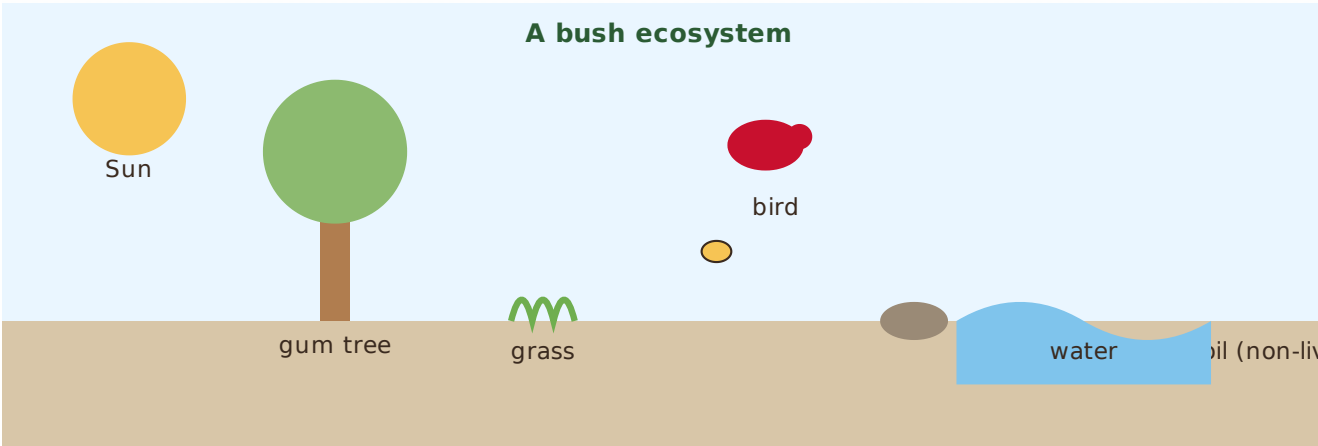


Ecosystem Explorer

Exploring an ecosystem

An ecosystem is all the living and non-living things in an area that depend on one another. Living things grow, need food, water and air, and can make more of their own kind. Non-living things — like rocks, water, soil and air — were never alive, but living things still need them.



Living things (gum tree, grass, bird, bee) and non-living things (Sun, water, rocks, soil) share this ecosystem and depend on one another.

Example. In a creek ecosystem, the *living* things include fish, frogs, reeds and insects. The *non-living* things include water, rocks, sand and sunlight. The frog needs the water (non-living) to lay its eggs and the insects (living) for food — everything is connected.

Q1. Sort these into the table: *gum tree, granite rock, honey bee, tap water, earthworm, plastic bottle, banksia flower, sand.*

Living	Non-living

Q2. How did you decide if something was living? Write one thing you looked for.

Q3. Choose one habitat: a **creek**, a **gum forest**, or the **schoolyard**. List the living and non-living things you would find there.

Living things	Non-living things

Q4. Pick **one non-living thing** from your habitat. Explain what would happen to the living things if it disappeared.

Q5. Finish the sentence in your own words: *An ecosystem is...*
