

## *Community Comparisons Lab*

Directions: In a small group (three or four students) Make some observations on the area assigned by Mr. Ulrich. Answer the following questions.

1. Briefly describe the location of your ecosystem.
2. Make a list of the biotic factors and **describe the abiotic factors**.

### Biotic

Be descriptive. You will have to identify at least one species in your area.

### Abiotic

These should be described.  
e.g. how hot/cold?, how much light?, etc.

3. Are there any organisms that dominate or are most abundant in your area? What are they (common name would be fine)? How many of them are there?
4. What keeps those abundant/dominant organisms from taking over your area (limiting factor)?
5. Identify a food chain in your area.
6. Identify an example of competition between individuals of the same species. What resource are they competing for?

7. Identify an example of competition between organisms of different species. What resource are they competing for?

Going Further:

8. Imagine that you are the size of an ant and you find yourself in your region. What are your three main concerns about being there?
9. Imagine you are the size of a mouse. Now, what are your three main concerns?
10. How do you factor into the ecology of the area? That is, what role do you play in your area?
11. Draw a symbol that represents your area or make a sketch of an interaction occurring there.
12. Identify one organism in your area by scientific name. Do some research and describe its niche in the ecosystem. For extra credit, write a short essay that describes the life history and ecology of that organism in more detail. The essay will add to the lab-hour value of this lab.