

Lesson 8: Balance

OPENER



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- ❖ What are the effects of fire on a forest ecosystem? Write down as many effects as you can think of.

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1. Read the Disaster cards and fill in the table.

	Negative Effects	Positive Effects	How long before ecosystem regains balance
Forest fire			
Flood			
Gold mining			
Land Clearing for Building Construction			
Earthquake			
Nuclear power and accidents			

Storm			
Invasive Species (Human Caused)			

2. Sort the cards into two piles: natural disasters and human made disasters. Compare the two piles. What are the similarities and differences?

3. What is the biggest difference between natural disasters and human-made disasters?

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EXIT CARD

- ❖ Choose a natural disaster and human-made disaster. Compare and contrast them in terms of their short-term and long-term effects on an ecosystem.

HOMEWORK

- ❖ Do you think there is a “balance” in the plot that you are observing for your Ecosystem Observation project? Are there any missing elements that make it out of balance? Or is there any specific disturbance that would bring it out of balance?