

EXPERIMENT 8

ECOSYSTEM BALANCE

Let's learn how ecosystems stay in balance and how changing one part can affect everything else.



8 - ECOSYSTEM BALANCE



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Craft Mat
- Tape
- Glue stick
- 2 Jumbo Popsicle Sticks
- 4 Small Cups
- Wooden Triangle
- Marine Figures

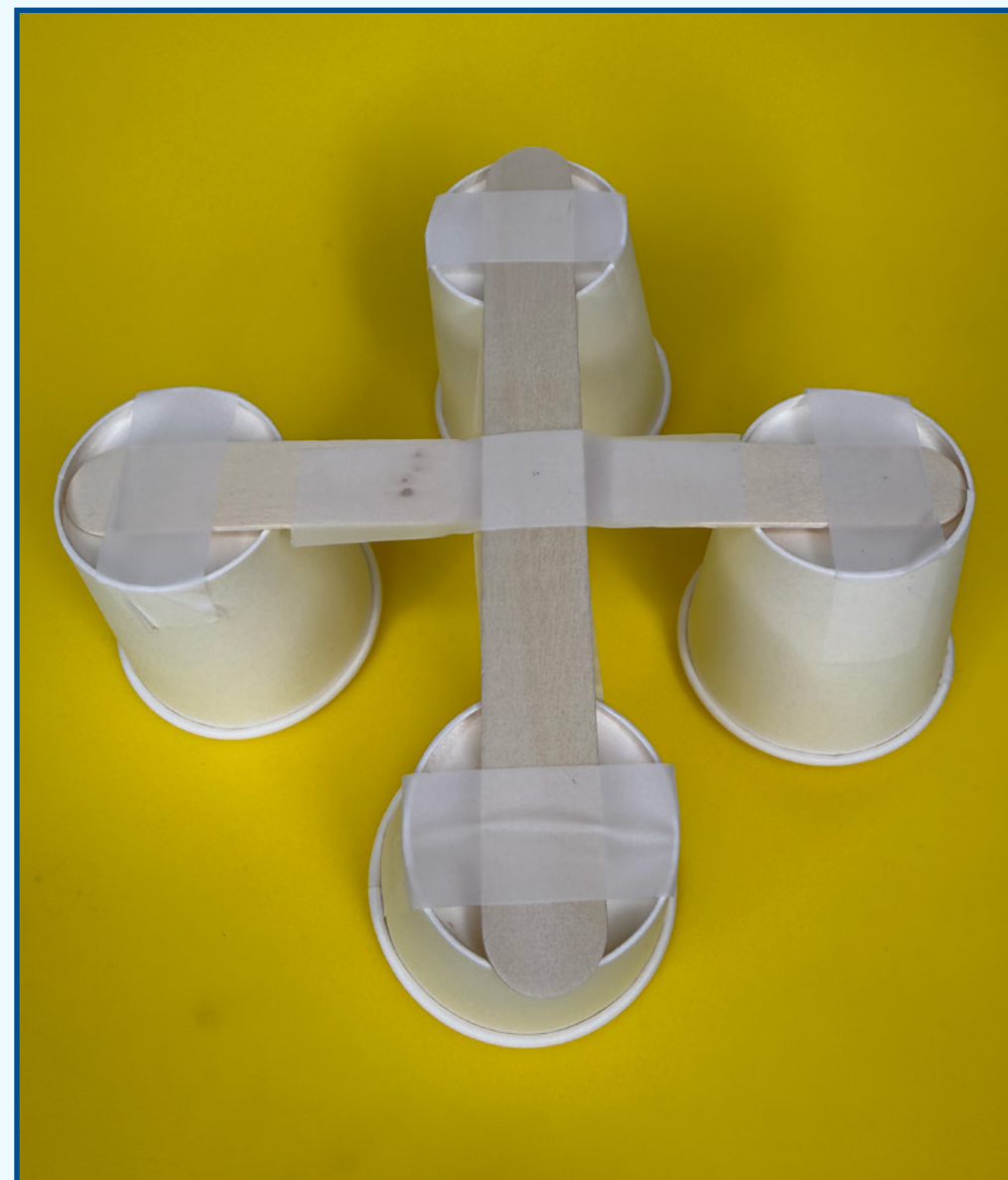


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STEP 1

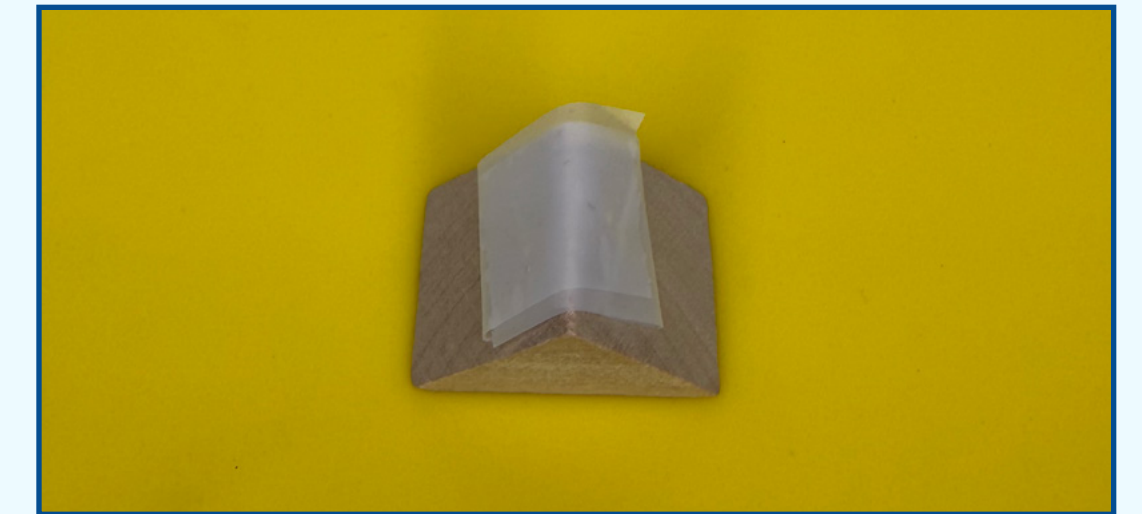
Cross the popsicle stick (like a +) and glue first, then tape them to stay together in the middle (see photo).

Tape one small cup on the end of each side of each popsicle stick (see photo).



STEP 2

Place the wooden triangle on the craft mat. Fold a piece of tape and place it on the pointy peak of the wooden triangle



STEP 3

Balance the middle of the jumbo popsicle stick cross across the top of the triangle.



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STEP 4

Add marine figures to cups so the scale is balanced.

Talk about what the figures represent:

Algae, Fish, Sea Lions, Other Ocean Life.

STEP 5

Now remove one figure from one side.

Watch what happens to the balance.

STEP 6

Add too many figures to one side and observe again.

Try different combinations.

Talk about how changing one part of the ecosystem affects the whole system.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

A balanced scale represents a balanced ecosystem.

When one side changes too much, the system tips.

Ocean ecosystems depend on:
Enough Food, Healthy Habitats, Balance Between Species

If one part changes, many other parts can change too.

What happens if fish disappear?

What happens if algae grow too much?

What happens if predators get sick?

SETUP	NOTES	TAKEAWAY

