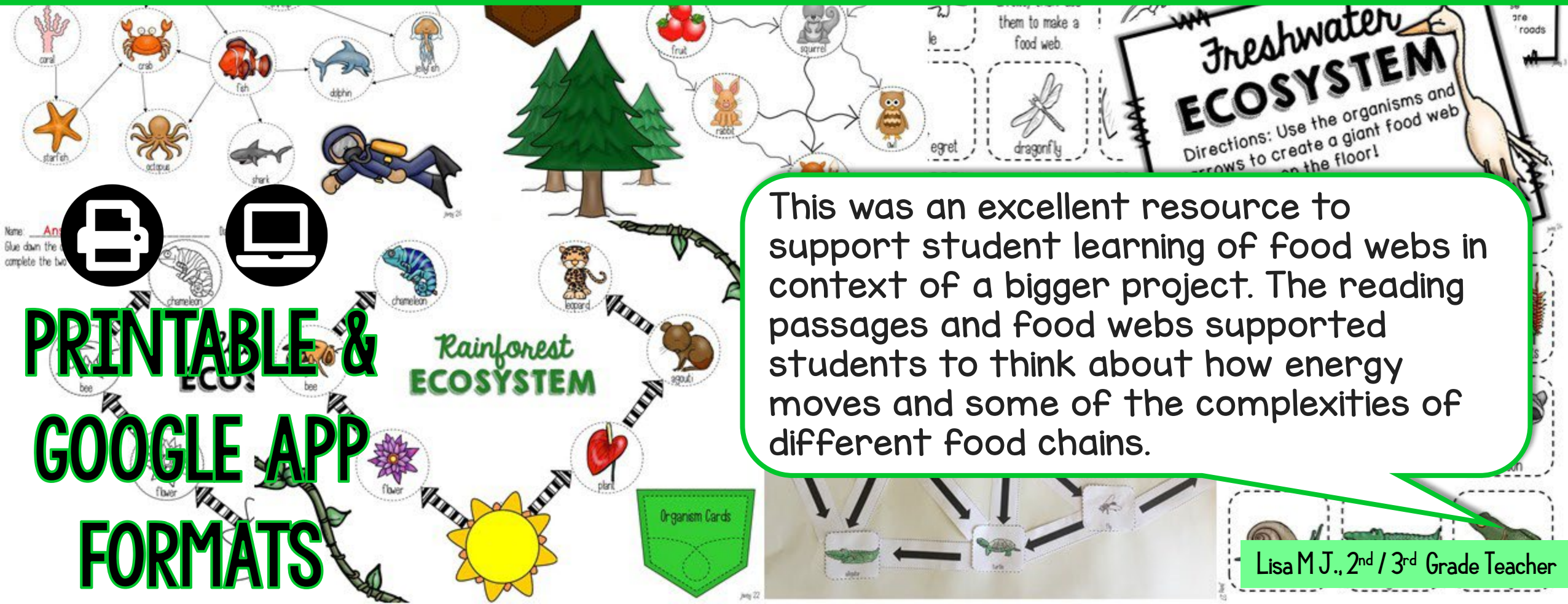


# INTERACTIVE ECOSYSTEMS



This was an excellent resource to support student learning of food webs in context of a bigger project. The reading passages and food webs supported students to think about how energy moves and some of the complexities of different food chains.

# WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

centers (laminates & re-use!)

independent practice

morning work

homework

study tools

just assign virtually with  
provided Google Slide links OR  
allow students to complete it on  
paper in class, then practice  
digitally for homework!





# KID-FRIENDLY INFORMATIONAL PASSAGES

Students can use the included passages to complete the food webs and food chains, or research what the animals eat to place the organisms correctly.

# Rainforest

Rainforests are full of life! In fact, they have more plant and animal life than all other ecosystems in the world combined. The main plants growing in rainforests are evergreen trees. There are over 8,000 plants, too, including ferns, banana trees, and vines.

More than half of the animals in the rainforest live in the rainforest. Many organisms in the plant life of the rainforest. Insects and butterflies, rely on the forest plants. Rodents, like flying squirrel and agoutis, need plants that provide food. Reptiles are everywhere in the rainforest.

## Forest

Depending on where you live, might have a forest ecosystem right in your backyard! Forests are full of habitats and food for animals.

Animals, like squirrels, live off nuts and fruits that come from the trees in the forest. Rabbits and skunks also eat fruit from the plants of the forest. These animals are called herbivores. They only eat plants and things that come from plants. Herbivores are often prey to many

## Freshwater

Freshwater ecosystems are in lakes, streams, rivers, ponds, and marshes. There are plants and animals that live in the water, and then also animals that live around the water that eat those plants and animals.

So many of the animals that live in and around the water rely on water plants for food. Insects, fish, turtles, snails, and crustaceans, like crayfish and shrimp, all eat water plants. Frogs and turtles eat the insects.

Fish are also a main food source for many animals. Turtles, birds, and alligators eat fish. Raccoons even go fishing! They

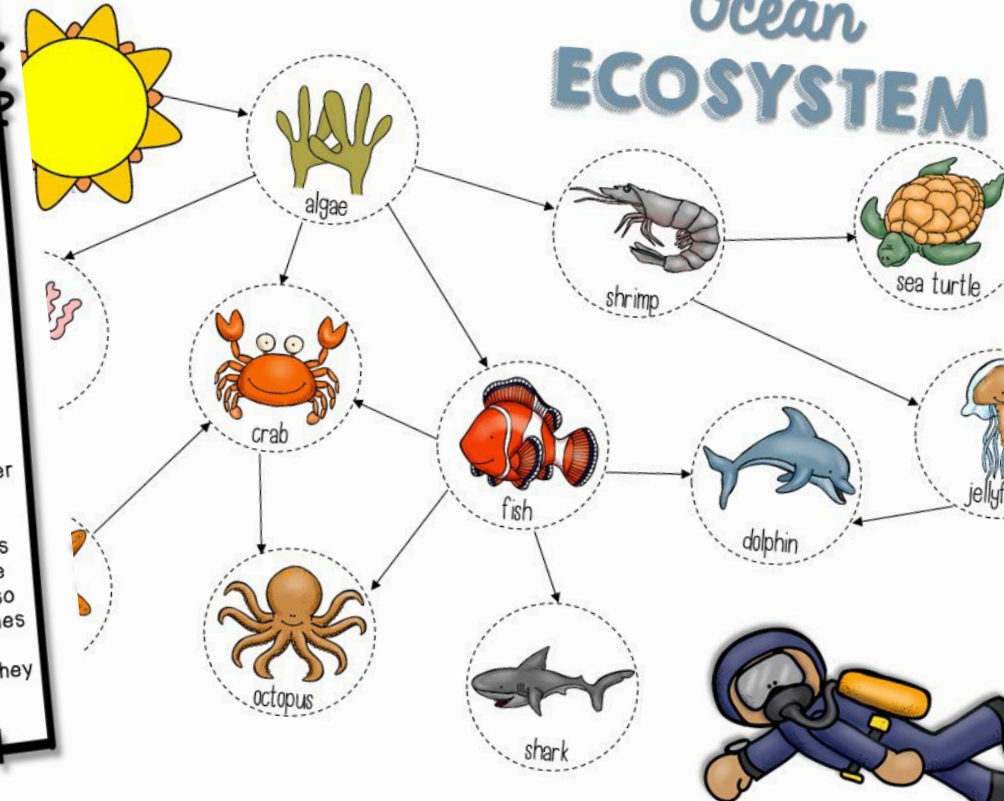
# Ocean

Since the earth's oceans make up over two-thirds of our world, it's no wonder that it's also full of life. Ocean ecosystems consist of fish, plants, and even mammals.

The most common type of plant found in the ocean is microscopic. It's called plankton, or algae, and it is food for many ocean animals. Other plants of the ocean include seagrass, seaweed, and kelp. Some people think coral is a plant, but it is actually an animal! It can not produce its own food. Coral eats the algae in the water, then some types of starfish feed on it.

The food web in the ocean seems endless! Most animals in the ocean are omnivores, which means they eat plants and animals. Some sea turtles only eat sea grasses, but some, like the Loggerhead, like to also eat shrimp and jellyfish. Shellfish, like crabs and shrimp, eat algae. Crabs also eat fish and starfish that are on the ocean floor. Fish eat algae, and sometimes they eat fish that are smaller than them. Jellyfish use their tentacles to grab shrimp that swim by.

At the top of the food chain, you'll find animals like sharks, dolphins, and octopuses. Fish are the main food for all of these animals. Octopuses also like to eat crabs and scallops. Dolphins sometimes enjoy a jellyfish snack, too. Humans eat many animals from the ocean as well, and as long as they don't over-fish, the ocean ecosystem stays balanced.



# AVAILABLE IN BLACK & WHITE AND COLOR PRINTABLES

4 different activities  
provided that gradually  
become more difficult:

- food chain
- food web with arrows
- food web without arrows
- create entire food web

