

HS-LS2-8 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

California Alternate Assessment for Science—Item Content Specifications

# HS-LS2-8 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

| California Science Connector | Focal Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities | Essential Understanding |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Identify evidence supporting the outcome of group behavior (e.g., predation, life expectancy) on species’ chances to survive and reproduce. | 1. Ability to identify evidence supporting an outcome of group behavior.
 | Identify an example of group behavior (e.g., flocking, schooling, herding, and cooperative behaviors such as hunting, migrating, and swarming). |

## **CA NGSS Performance Expectation**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**Evaluate the evidence for the role of group behavior on individual and species’ chances to survive and reproduce.** [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on: (1) distinguishing between group and individual behavior, (2) identifying evidence supporting the outcomes of group behavior, and (3) developing logical and reasonable arguments based on evidence. Examples of group behaviors could include flocking, schooling, herding, and cooperative behaviors such as hunting, migrating, and swarming.]

## Mastery Statements

Students will be able to:

* Identify animals acting as a group
* Recognize different types of group behavior
* Identify an outcome of group behavior
* Recognize that group behavior helps animals survive

## Possible Phenomena or Contexts

*Note that the list in this section is not exhaustive or prescriptive.*

**Possible contexts include the following:**

* Colonizing insects, such as bees and ants
* Penguins grouping together for warmth
* Herbivores watching for danger and issuing a warning
* Beavers building dams
* Birds building a group nest

## Additional Assessment Boundaries

* None listed at this time

## Additional References

California Science Test Item Specification for HS-LS2-8

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/itemspecs-hs-ls2-8.docx>

Environmental Principles and Concepts <http://californiaeei.org/abouteei/epc/>

The *2016 Science Framework for California Public Schools Kindergarten through Grade Twelve* <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/cascienceframework2016.asp>

Appendix 1: Progression of the Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts in Kindergarten through Grade Twelve

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/documents/scifwappendix1.pdf>

Appendix 2: Connections to Environmental Principles and Concepts

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/documents/scifwappendix2.pdf>

*Posted by the California Department of Education, August 2020*