

Arts for Literacy – Unit 2 Organization & Development of Living Organisms

Session 1

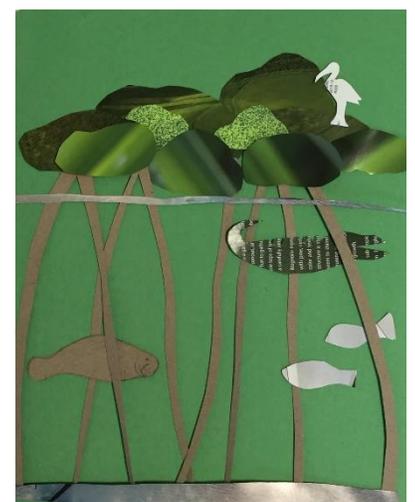
Hello everyone, we're already moving into our next unit and will need to engage all your senses, but especially your senses of sight and hearing.

Now that we understand the difference between living and non-living things, our focus will be on living organisms in their natural habitat and how they depend on each other to survive. At the beginning of our last unit on earth structures, we talked about swamps and the living things that can be found there. So, that makes the Florida Everglades perfect for this project.

We will be making a collage to describe the living organisms that can be found in the Florida Everglades.



Look at these amazing roots.



What you will need:

- Scissors
- Pencil
- Paper glue
- (Optional) colored pencils, crayons OR markers
- 1 Sheet of printer paper or construction paper (white, light blue, grey or light green)
- Food boxes, magazines and old greeting cards



In the photograph on the first page, you can see that I used only the paper from food boxes, magazines and old greeting cards. The inside of these boxes made great tree roots.

Follow these steps and use the pictures to help you understand the direction.

Step 1

Use a light-colored sheet of paper (8½" x 11") for your base. It can be a copy paper sheet or a construction paper sheet. It can even be cut out from a box.

Step 2

Either color the sky a light blue or cut out a sky color from a box, greeting card or magazine.





Step 3 Placing the tree canopies

Look through your boxes, magazines and greeting cards and find areas of green. It's best to find some different greens if you can. Use the template attached to this lesson for an idea of size and shapes. You may print the template and cut out the shapes if you'd like or draw your own. In all, you'll need six of these shapes for your trees. Notice that they are different sizes too.

Once you've cut out your tree canopies, use the glue to stick them on the paper in front of the sky. They should go high up on the page like the ones in the photo.

The Mangrove trees in the Florida Everglades are an important part of the ecosystem and provide food and shelter for many of the other living organisms that make their homes there.

Step 4 Cutting out the tree roots

Use the template to draw and cut out 6 of the roots of the Mangrove trees. I used the inside of a box as the color was already brown like the roots. Cut these carefully as they are very thin pieces. Once they are cut out, stick them under the tree canopies as shown in the photo.



Facts about Mangrove Trees

These are the only trees that can grow in salty water.

They prevent erosion during hurricanes and storms.

They provide shelter for many animals like birds, turtles and fish.

Many living organisms easily get food in and around the roots that are above and below the water.

Next session we will continue with our collage by looking at some of the animals that live in the Florida Everglades and how they depend on each other to survive. Many of you are familiar with these animals and may have even seen some up close.

Discussion Questions

How do you think the Mangrove tree roots provide shelter for other living things?

What kind of animals do you think live in a Mangrove tree canopy?



New Vocabulary

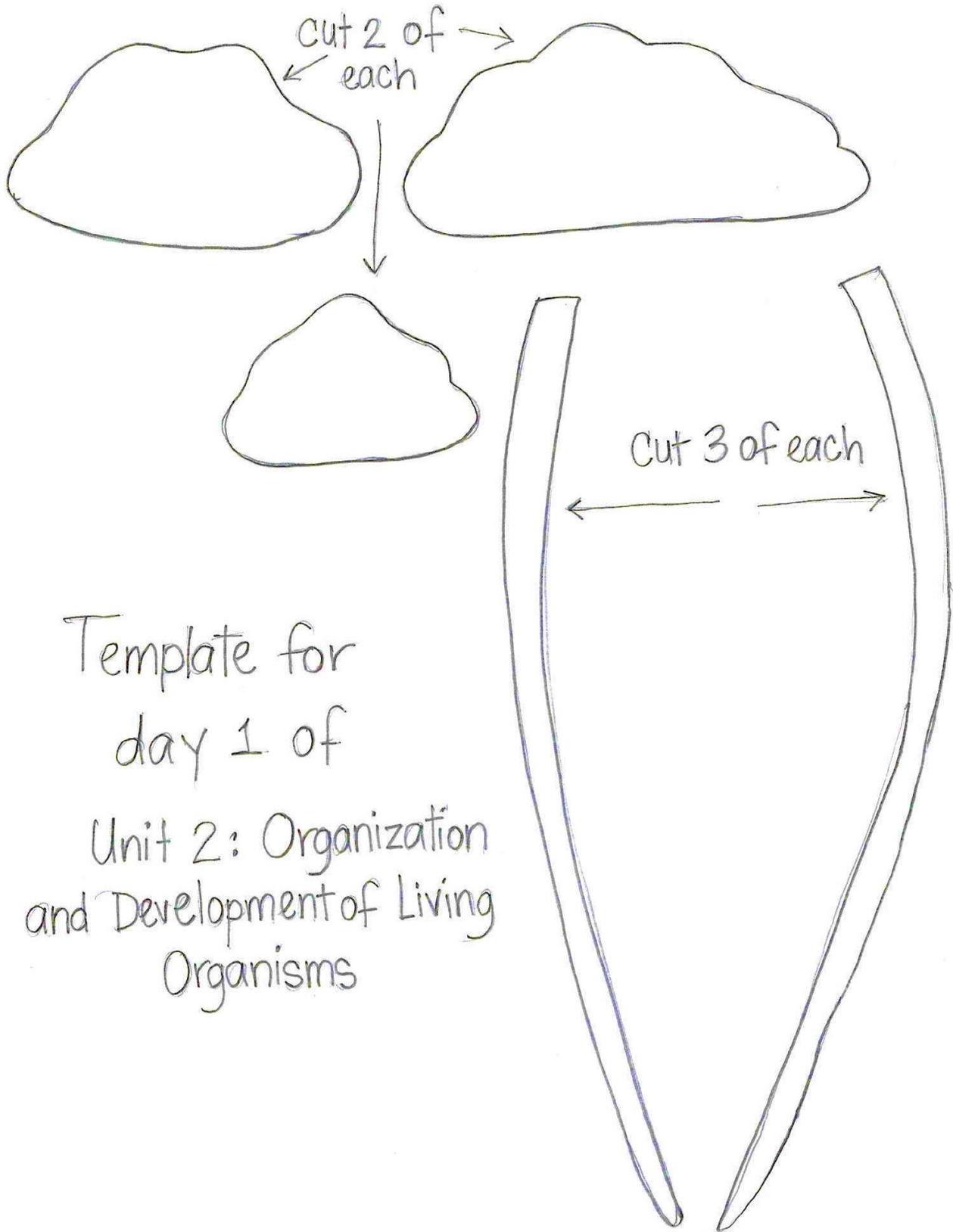
Canopy – the top portion of a tree made up of branches and leaves.

Ecosystem – living organisms and their environment.

Habitat – the home of an animal, plant or other organism.

Organism – any living thing.

Use this template to make stencils for cutting out the canopies and roots. You can either print and cut these out or draw your own that look like these.



Template for
day 1 of
Unit 2: Organization
and Development of Living
Organisms