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Interactions within Ecosystems

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Project, Strategy, Method or Activity: DIIMSA® Vocabulary Video Connection.

Synopsis: I use the DIIMSA® Vocabulary Video Connection activity as an introduction to new vocabulary terms. In one example during ecosystems studies, I used the video clip snippet that shows an alligator and bird in a freshwater marsh habitat. Vocabulary words used during this activity included: *Abiotic, Biotic, Carnivore, Community, Consumer, Decomposer, Ecosystem, Food Chain, Food Web, Habitat, Herbivore, Organism, Population, Predator, Prey, Producer and Scavenger.*

Teacher Observations: I noticed several students were completely engaged as they tried to research and understand the definition in order to make connections to the scene during their group's given timeframe. What I really noticed was that each student did not realize which term they would actually be held responsible for, so they had to understand all terms and associated definitions and how to apply such terms to the scene. Part of the activity also includes an option for a second video during the second round. The same words are used, but eliminated in the first video and remaining terms are used in the second video. I really like this activity because it allows me to introduce new vocabulary using engaging videos that students can apply vocabulary.