



# Standards Correlations

## Biodiversity 6th - 12th

### Program Synopsis

Students discover the diversity of life at Merry Lea firsthand by exploring multiple ecosystems on our trails. In each habitat, students identify native organisms and discuss the interconnections of mammals, insects, plants, humans and more. Assess the importance of biodiversity by flipping logs, interpreting abiotic features, and meeting the flora and fauna of Merry Lea.

### Indiana Academic Standards for Science

#### Middle School

- LS1.B** | **Growth and Development of Organisms:** Animals engage in characteristic behaviors that increase the odds of reproduction. (MS-LS1-4)
- LS1.B** | **Growth and Development of Organisms:** Plants reproduce in a variety of ways, sometimes depending on animal behavior and specialized features for reproduction. (MS-LS1-4)
- LS1.B** | **Growth and Development of Organisms:** Genetic factors as well as local conditions affect the growth of the adult plant. (MS-LS1-5)
- LS2.C** | **Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience:** Ecosystems are dynamic in nature; their characteristics can vary over time. Disruptions to any physical or biological component of an ecosystem can lead to shifts in all its populations. (MS-LS2-4)

#### High School

- ESS3.C** | **Human Impacts on Earth Systems:** The sustainability of human societies and the biodiversity that supports them requires responsible management of natural resources. (HS-ESS3-3)
- LS2.C** | **Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience:** A complex set of interactions within an ecosystem can keep its numbers and types of organisms relatively constant over long periods of time under stable conditions. If a modest biological or physical disturbance to an ecosystem occurs, it may return to its more or less original status (i.e., the ecosystem is resilient), as opposed to becoming a very different ecosystem. Extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population, however, can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability. (HS-LS2-2), (HS-LS2-6)
- LS2.C** | **Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience:** Anthropogenic changes (induced by human activity) in the environment—including habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of invasive species, overexploitation, and climate change—can disrupt an ecosystem and threaten the survival of some species. (HS-LS2-7)