

# Ecosphere

## Location

Ground floor, Our World exhibition

## In a nutshell

A completely self-contained world

When you take a closer look at this ecosystem it becomes clear that the only thing that can get in is sunlight. Inside each of the inhabitants relies on the other to stay alive.



## What to do

Take a look into the sphere and use the touch screen above it to find out the role of each organism in the ecosystem.

## Time Required

KS1 & KS2 2 minutes per student.

## What's happening?

Shrimp feed on the algae and take in the oxygen produced by photosynthesis. Algae use the sunlight and the waste carbon dioxide from the shrimp to make food. The last group are the bacteria, who can break down the shrimp poo to retrieve nutrients and also make them available for the algae.

This small sphere is a perfect example of the linking between all the systems on Earth. What one creature doesn't use, another one will gladly take.

### Curriculum links

<b>KS1/2</b>	<b>Science - Living things and their habitats</b>
	- (Yr 2) identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other
	- (Yr 2) describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food
	- (Yr 6) describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals
	<b>Science - Animals, including humans</b>
- (Yr 4) construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey	
<b>English - Reading – comprehension</b>	
- (Yr1) discussing word meanings, linking new meanings to those already known	
- (Yr2) discussing and clarifying the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary	

## Relates to:

Workshops & Theme Days	Shows	Trails	Other exhibits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catching the sun (KS2)</li> <li>System Earth day (KS2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Marvel (Planetarium, all ages)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little growers</li> <li>Little rotters</li> <li>Living timeline</li> </ul>

