

# Virginia Natives

A Blandy Experimental Farm Program

## Virginia Natives Pre Trip Information:

**What to expect:** Students will explore Virginia's native organisms through games and outdoor exploration. They will better understand the relationships among these organisms, and will be able to see how each organism fits into Virginia ecosystems.

## Pre- and post-trip Activities:

- In order for your students to get the most out of their trip, please complete the included pre- and post-program activities. They will help your students:
  - Understand the vocabulary they will be exposed to on their visit
  - Be able to spend more time outdoors experiencing these organisms and their relationships, and less time indoors learning vocabulary
  - Review everything they learned during their visit
  - Practice some of the observation techniques they will learn in the field at Blandy

## On the day of your visit:

- Please arrive early to receive your materials and allow students to use the restroom and get acclimated to their surroundings
- Come prepared to spend time outdoors

**We truly look forward to seeing you! If you have any questions, feel free to call us at (540) 837-1758.**

Sincerely,

*The Education Staff at the State Arboretum of Virginia*

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Pre-program activity: Use the picture and the letter clues to fill in the blank using the words in the word bank on page 3. Use each word only once.

1. C \_ \_ \_ \_ V \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_

M

\_ \_



[www.alaska-in-pictures.com](http://www.alaska-in-pictures.com)

2.



[www.snellvilleumc.org](http://www.snellvilleumc.org)

\_ \_ \_

V

P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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\_ \_ \_

3. O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Y



[primatology.net](http://primatology.net)



[www.danchristgallery.com](http://www.danchristgallery.com)

4. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ V O \_ \_

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[activitypit.ning.com](http://activitypit.ning.com)

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6.

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[andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com](http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com)

7.

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[www.bhopal.net](http://www.bhopal.net)

8.

N \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ T



[www.freewebs.com](http://www.freewebs.com)

## Word Bank

Non-native plant  
Niche  
Carnivore  
Producer

Decomposer  
Organism  
Community  
Herbivore

Consumer  
Prey  
Predator  
Omnivore

Population  
Habitat  
Native Plant

## Word Definitions

Non-native plant- a plant that has been brought here from somewhere else

Niche- an organism's job in its community

Carnivore- an organism that eats only meat

Producer- an organism that makes food using energy from the sun

Decomposer- an organism that breaks down organic material

Organism- a living thing

Community- a group of plants and animals that live in the same place

Herbivore- an organism that eats plants

Consumer- an organism that eats other organism for energy

Prey- an organism that is hunted by another organism

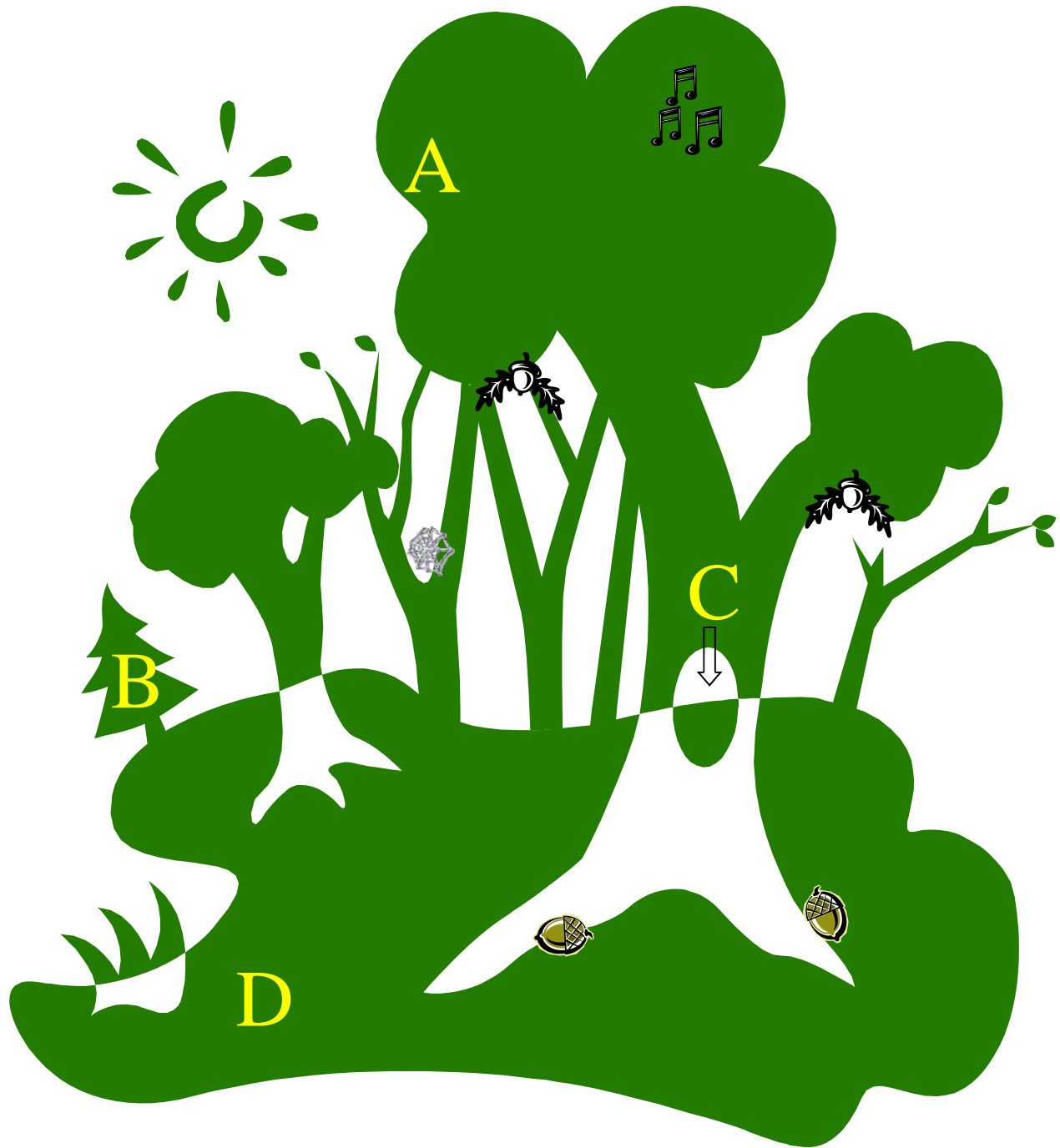
Predator- an animal that hunts and consumes other animals

Omnivore- an organism that eats both plants and animals

Population- a group of the same species of organisms

Habitat- a place in where an organism lives and has food, shelter and space for survival

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## Post Program Activity

Look at the previous page to answer the questions below.

1. Find letter “A”. What kind of tree loses its leaves in the winter?
2. What might live in the cavity where you find letter “C”?
3. What type of organism is living in the cavity of your tree?

Herbivore   Omnivore   Carnivore   Producer   Decomposer

4. Find “D”. What might the letter “D” stand for if you are an animal that lives in the soil breaking down organic matter?
5. The tree with the letter “B” in it stay green all year and has cones and needles, what kind of tree is it?
6. What time of year do you think this picture depicts?
7. Find the cobweb. Which layer of the forest is the cobweb in?
8. The cobweb is evidence that an animal has been in the tree. What animal was in the tree? Is the animal a carnivore, herbivore or an omnivore?
9. Looking at the tree with the cavity, what species of tree do you think it is?

Why?

What animal might depend on this tree for food?

10. What might the musical notes in the tree represent?

# Virginia Natives

Teacher answer page for Post Program Activity

1. Deciduous
2. Mushroom, squirrel, owl, bird are some of the answers your students may have.
3. Depending on how your student answers question # 2 will dictate what answer you will get for this question.
4. Decomposer
5. Evergreen or conifer
6. Spring, summer or fall.
7. Understory
8. Spider, carnivore
9. Oak, because of the acorns. Many animals such as squirrels, deer, mice, chipmunks, etc., eat acorns.
10. Cricket, bird, any organism that may be making noises in the forest.