



# Schoolyard Ecosystems

## *Stroll ANSWER KEY*

*Instructions: Use the guide to answer the following questions.*

- How can a schoolyard ecosystem benefit students and teachers?
  - Teachers – *present info relevant to Florida; minimize need for field trips*
  - Students – *develop positive attitudes towards the environment; learn environmental concepts*
- Name two things to consider when planning the location of your site.  
*Pages 18-23 – size; school area or vehicular circulation; visibility; aesthetics; utilities; activities and other programs; drainage pattern; construction regulations; maintenance requirements; water accessibility; connection between upland and wetland areas; existing vegetation and natural areas; adjacent land use*
- Name at three safety considerations to keep in mind while planning and installing your ecosystem.  
*Page 9 - Potentially harmful animals, potentially harmful plants, and water concerns*
- Whom would you invite to serve on a planning committee? Be prepared to discuss each person's role.  
*Pages 8-9  
Principal or assistant principal; custodian; grounds maintenance people; teachers; student council rep; PTA rep; landscape architect; 4-H, scout or other youth group leaders; county extension staff/master gardener; local forester; member of conservation organization*
- Besides trees and other plants, name three other elements that would enhance your ecosystem. What are the animals listed that will use the non-plant ecosystem element burrows?  
*Page 37 and Appendix D – Bird houses, rock or brush piles, burrows, ponds, boardwalks, benches and other things that increase habitat value or student use of the ecosystem*
- How large should the buckets be for the drift fence arrays? What type of animals do you sample with the drift fence?
  - Page 47 - 5-gallon bucket*
  - Invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles*
- How many native mammal species are there in Florida? What methods would be used to survey them?
  - Page 49 – 94 species of mammals*
  - Track stations and Sherman livetraps*
- What is the recommended procedure for removing trees and shrubs from plastic containers?  
*Page 58 - Lay the container on its side, gently squeeze the container to loosen the plant and soil, try to remove the plant by gently pulling on the trunk and the soil ball while also actually pouring the plant out*
- How would you use your schoolyard ecosystem?  
*Chapter 6, page 69 – as an extension of your regular classroom, an outdoor classroom/living laboratory*
- How can you evaluate the success of your schoolyard ecosystem?  
*Chapter 7, page 73 – pre and post assessments to document change in knowledge and attitudes*

