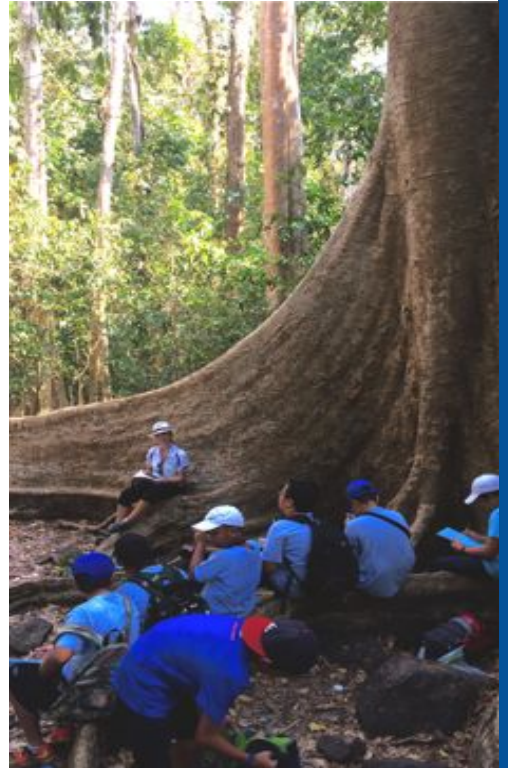




Understanding  
our  
Environment

Grade Five SuperUnit

# Phoenix Forest



## Sharing the Resources of our Planet

This SuperUnit is a structured inquiry into helping the learner understand our natural environment. Learners will share the resources of our planet. Learners will be empowered to improve the environmental sustainability of humans. Learners will develop their ability to do sustainability thinking (the process of considering how our daily choices affect our environment).

# Sustainable solutions consider ecology



## Highlights of Learning Experiences

**SuperUnit Launch:** January - EAST Primate Recovery Center representatives will share their project and assist students in Planting of a Seedling of an endangered species critical to the survival of the Pygmy Slow Loris.

**Field Trip:** Grade 5 students will be going to Cat Tien National Park for three nights, and learning how park rangers help sustain and strengthen this ecosystem.

**Guest Speakers:** Representative from the EAST Primate Recovery Center at Cat Tien, Mr. Binh

**Project:** Students will work with the head arboriculturist at Cat Tien National Park to design, build, and sustain an on-campus nursery that will grow endangered fruit trees critical to the survival of the Pygmy Slow Loris. Future classes of Grade 5 students will transport mature saplings to Cat Tien annually in order to bolster reforestation efforts in the rain forest.

**Core Values Key Concepts:** Academic Excellence, Dedicated Service

**SuperUnit Celebration:** Student work will be integrated into Learning Journeys at the end of the quarter.



## Focus on Learning by Subject

**Science:** Students will discover the importance of balance and energy within ecosystems. Many activities will take place at Cat Tien National Park. Students will also look at how humans can positively or negatively impact ecosystems.

**Math:** Students will learn about fractions and the relationships among decimals, fractions, and percents. These concepts will give students powerful ways to incorporate statistical findings into their persuasive proposals.

**Social Studies:** Students will learn about human impact on natural ecosystems. They will learn about the relationship between global trade and the local economy. Students will also be learning about how humans use different types of areas for different activities.

**English:** Students will be exploring complex plot structures in narrative stories. They will write a story using one of these complex narrative structures such as parallel story lines, flashback, flash-forward, and multiple points of view.

**Art:** Students will explore mixed-media in a joint project with MS. Greeting cards will be made from the artwork and then sold at Art Journeys (May) to benefit the EAST Primate Recovery Center at Cat Tien.

**Drama:** Script writing helps students develop a stronger understanding of complex story structures.

**Music:** Nature inspires music. Students will be learning to incorporate the guitar to compose an original song inspired by the sounds of the rain forest.

**PE:** Having mental and physical stamina helps us enjoy outdoor experiences.

**Vietnamese:** Vietnamese culture identifies in many ways with nature. Nature plays an important role in Vietnamese beliefs about health and well being.

ogy, economics, politics and culture.



## Questions to Ask your Child

- **How is an ecosystem like a human community?**
- **What are the causes of species endangerment?**
- **How are ecosystems rehabilitated?**
- **How do writers communicate the story of choices and their effects?**



## Home Learning

Watch documentaries produced by naturalists that explain how ecosystems work and discuss ways in which those ecosystems may affect your family directly and indirectly.

Recommend BBC programs such as Planet Earth and similar series



## Suggested Home Extensions

Spend time in natural settings observing the living organisms around them.

Make an effort to contribute meaningfully as a family to a reforestation or animal conservation program

Research and design a sustainable micro-ecosystem for your room



## Key Vocabulary

Ecosystem, population, organism, producers, consumer, food web, food chain, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, water cycle, habitat, niche, adaptation, symbiosis, predator, prey, species, alien species, native (or endemic) species, endangered, threatened, extinct, human impact, deforestation



SuperUnit Launch  
Visit from Primate Recovery Center at  
Cat Tien National Park

SuperUnit Celebration:  
Learning Journeys

Field Trip  
Four days at Cat Tien National Park



**SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

78 Nguyen Duc Canh, Tan Phong Ward, District 7, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
T: (84-28) 5 413 0901 - F: (84-28) 5 413 0902 - E: [info@ssis.edu.vn](mailto:info@ssis.edu.vn) - W: [www.ssis.edu.vn](http://www.ssis.edu.vn)