

TRAILS. ONLINE.

Ecology on the Trail

WEEK 1: ECOSYSTEMS



PRE-ACTIVITY

What do you think an ecosystem is?

Let's find an outdoor space and look at
some of the parts of an ecosystem:

What are some things that are living?

What are some things that are nonliving?

STOP 1 - GEOLOGY

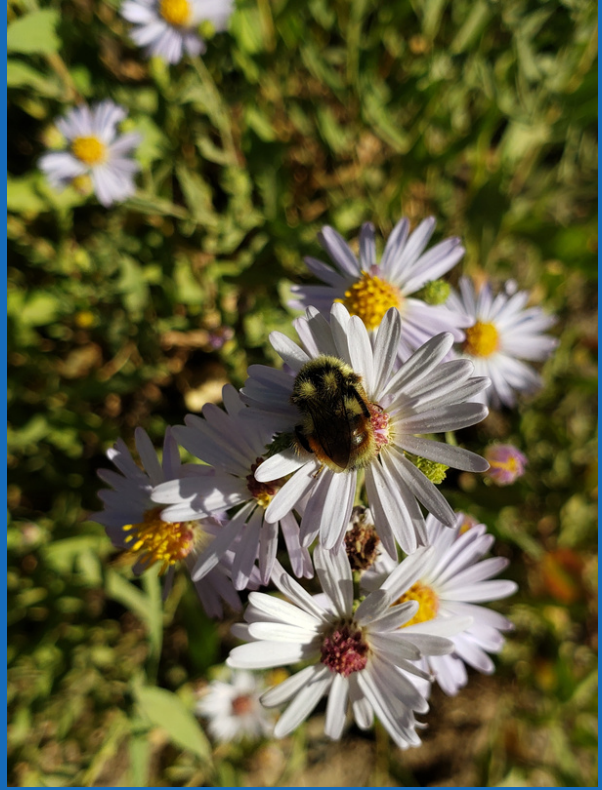


What do you notice about the rock that you see in the photo?

Do you think the mountains impact the plants and animals that live here? How?

STOP 2 - WILDLIFE

What is this bee doing? Do you think it is important to the ecosystem?



Pick an animal that you think might live at Snowbird. What role do you think that animal plays in the ecosystem?



Example 1

What does this animal eat?
What might eat this animal?

How do you think this deer survives in this ecosystem?

BONUS: Sometimes you may not see an animal when you're outside, but you might see evidence of one! What are some clues that an animal might leave behind?

STOP 3: TREES AND SHRUBS



Label each plant as deciduous, coniferous, or herbaceous



What do trees do in an ecosystem? What do herbaceous plants do in an ecosystem?



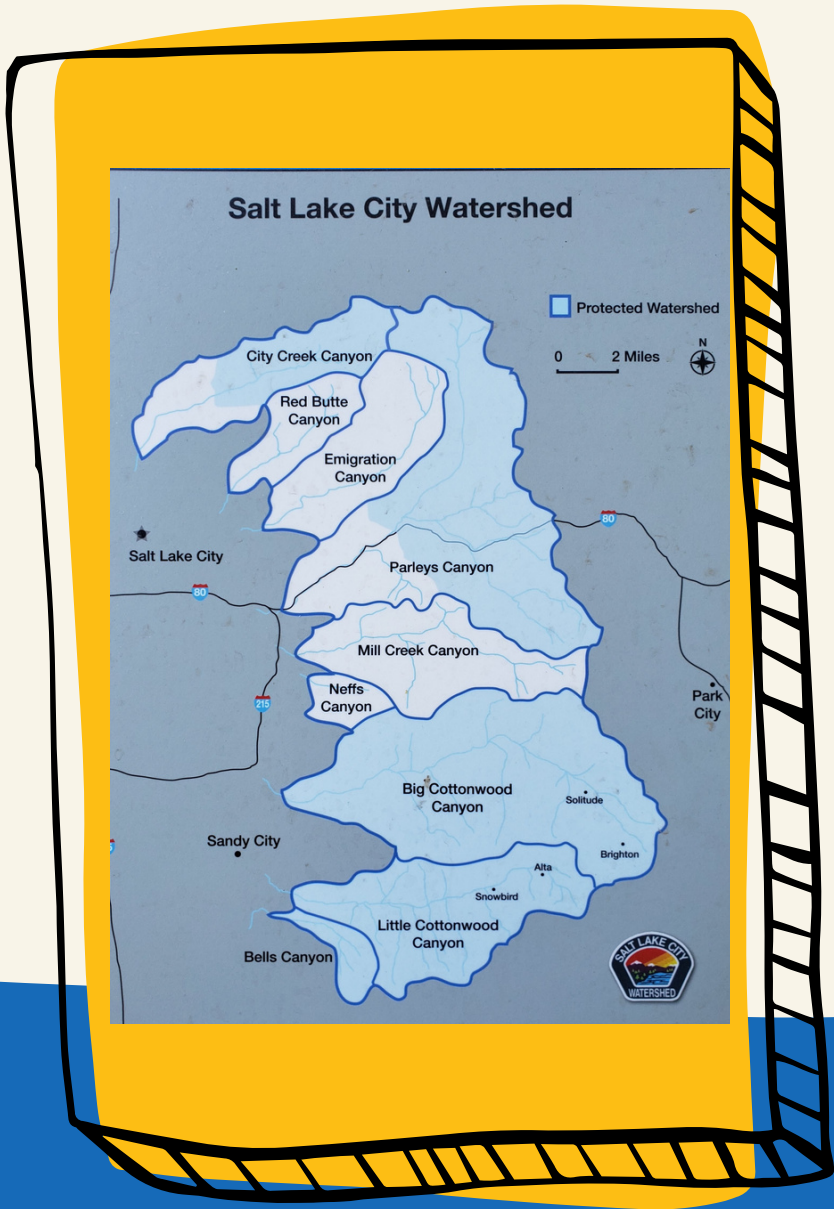
BONUS: Check out the plants you have at home! Do you see deciduous trees, coniferous trees, or both? What about herbaceous plants?



STOP 4 - WATERSHED



Pretend you are a raindrop that falls on the highest peak! Write a short story describing what happens to you.



Can you find Snowbird on the map? Which canyon is it in?

Is Snowbird located in a protected watershed?

Do you think the watershed is an important part of the canyon ecosystem? Why?



Bonus: The geology of the canyons helps shape the watershed, but can the watershed shape the canyon geology? Why or why not?



STOP 5 - HISTORY & HUMAN USE



Imagine being one of the people to Wasatch mountains. What resources could this ecosystem provide to help them survive?

Now think about yourself in the present. What benefits can this ecosystem provide you with?

The Wasatch is used for many activities today. What can we do to continue to protect these ecosystems while still enjoying the activities we love?

POST-ACTIVITY

Now that you've observed the ecosystem of your yard and the ecosystem around Snowbird (you can use the pictures in this guide to help you), let's compare them both! How are they different? How are they the same? Remember to think about living and nonliving things.