

• For ecosystems, the major source of energy is sunlight. Energy entering systems as sunlight is transferred by producers into chemical energy through photosynthesis. That energy then passes from organism to organism in food webs.

The 6 Big Ideas about Nature

Big Idea 1 • There are many relationships in the natural world. Some exist between two individual species; others involve a large, complex web of associations.

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Big Idea 2 • Many cycles exist in nature. These cycles allow for the reuse and renewal of natural resources, such as air, water, soil, and nutrients.

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Big Idea 3 • There are many techniques that we use to observe and study nature.

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