**6th Grade Science Lesson**

**1. Lesson Topic/Title and Pacing**

* **Living Environment**
* **Standard: 4**
* **Key Idea: 7 – Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the physical and living environment.**
* **Performance Indicator: 7.2 – Describe the effects of environmental changes on humans and other populations.**
* **Major Understanding: 7.2a – In ecosystems, balance is the result of interactions between community members and their environments.**

**2. Performance Objectives**

* **Students will be able to give examples of interdependence.**
* **Students will be able to explain why, in any given ecosystem, more diversity means more stability.**
* **Describe the interdependence and the results of those interactions in ecosystems.**

**3. Vocabulary**

* **Ecosystem, interaction, community, habitat, interdependence, diversity, stability, exotic species**

**4. Activity**

* **Discuss how humans disrupt ecosystems by disrupting physical habitat, decreasing species diversity, and destroying interactions among species.**
* **Investigate the devastating effects that invasive species have on native organisms.**

**5. Assessment/Student Outcome**

* **How do ecosystems gain stability?**
* **Provide examples of ways that organisms are dependent on their habitat and their community.**
* **Explain why ecosystems that are more diverse are usually more stable.**
* **Make a graphic organizer that states ways that humans disrupt the natural balance that occurs in ecosystems.**