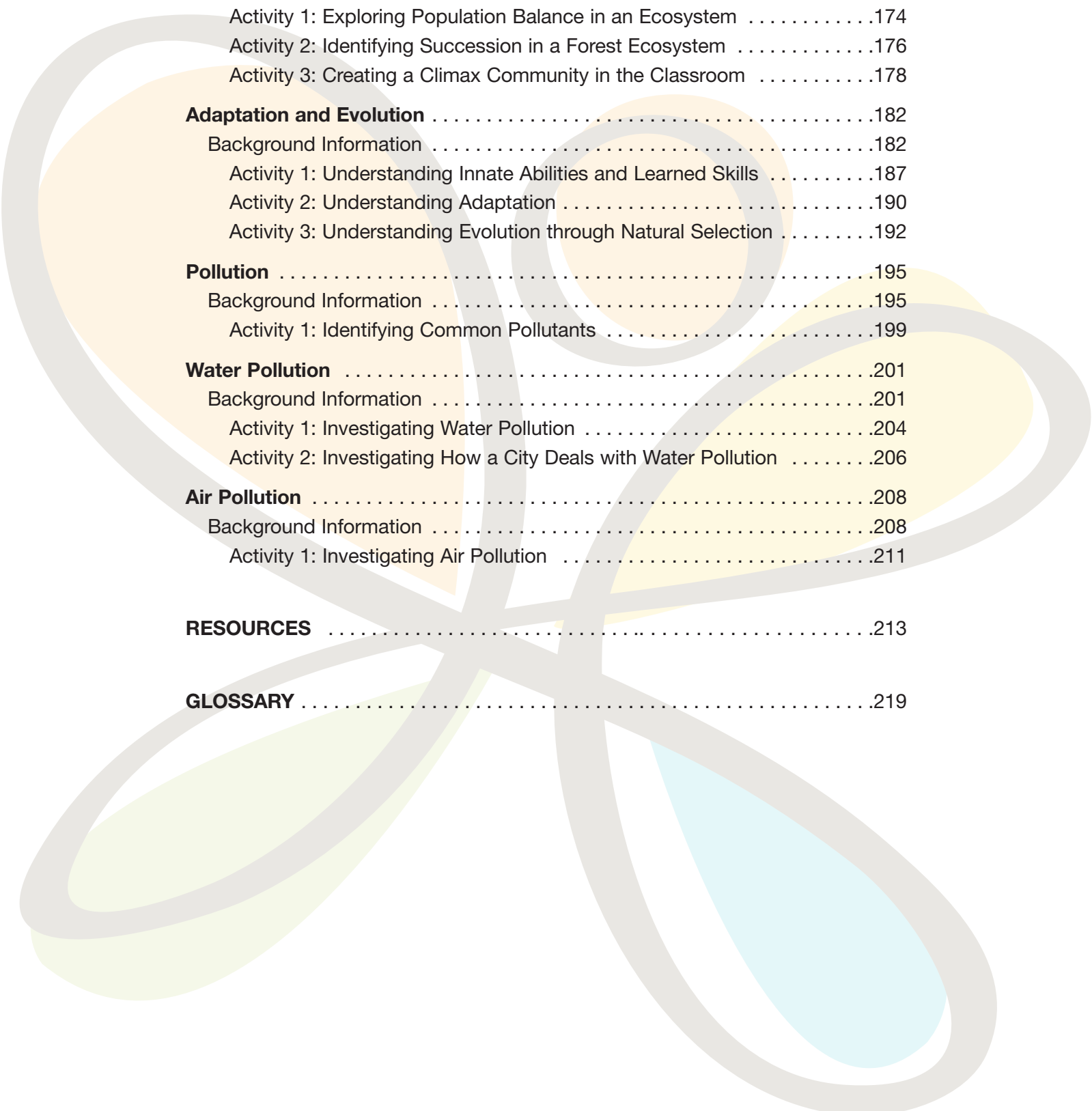


TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOW THIS MANUAL CAN BE USED	1
ASTRONOMY	4
Introduction	4
Current Scientific Theory About the Creation of the Universe	5
Background Information	5
Activity 1: Demonstrating the Big Bang Theory	11
Activity 2: Demonstrating Hubble's Law	13
The Life Cycle of Stars	15
Background Information	15
Activity 1: Exploring the Life Cycle of a Typical Star	21
Activity 2: Exploring the Life Cycle of a Giant Star	23
The Visibility of Stars and the Constellations	26
Background Information	26
Activity 1: Understanding the Relationship Between the Earth and the Stars	31
Activity 2: Identifying Constellations	33
Activity 3: Exploring the Visibility of Stars in a Constellation	35
Light-Years	38
Background Information	38
Activity 1: Understanding the Light-Year	43
Activity 2: Using Light-Years to Calculate Distance	45
Astronomical Tools	47
Background Information	47
Activity 1: Exploring How a Refracting Telescope Works	51
Activity 2: Exploring How a Reflecting Telescope Works	53
Activity 3: Exploring the Spectrum of a Star	55
The Solar System	57
Background Information	57
Activity 1: Creating a Scale Model of the Milky Way Galaxy	66
Activity 2: Building a Scale Model of the Sun and the Planets	68
Activity 3: Identifying Patterns in the Solar System	71

Earth and the Sun	73
Background Information	73
Activity 1: Demonstrating the Cycle of Day and Night	79
Activity 2: Showing Seasonal Changes in the Length of Day and Night	81
Activity 3: Investigating a Second Cause of the Seasons	84
The Moon, Tides, and Eclipses	87
Background Information	87
Activity 1: Understanding the Relationship Between the Earth and Moon	92
Activity 2: Understanding the Origins of Tides	94
Activity 3: Investigating Eclipses and Tides in Depth	96
Asteroids, Comets, and Meteors	99
Background Information	99
Activity 1: Understanding Asteroids, Comets, and Meteors	103
Activity 2: Recreating Meteor Impact Craters	105
Outer Space Exploration	108
Background Information	108
Activity 1: Exploring the History of Human Space Flight	119
Activity 2: Exploring Space Flight Beyond the Moon	121
RESOURCES	123
GLOSSARY	134
ECOLOGY	141
Introduction	141
The Web of Life	142
Background Information	142
Activity 1: Exploring the Biomes of the Earth	149
Activity 2: Understanding Biomes, Ecosystems, and Niches	151
Activity 3: Understanding the Web of Life	153
Food Chains	155
Background Information	155
Activity 1: Diagramming a Food Chain	161
Activity 2: Identifying the Roles of Organisms in Food Chains	164
Activity 3: Creating Compost	166



Dependence and Interdependence	169
Background Information	169
Activity 1: Exploring Population Balance in an Ecosystem	174
Activity 2: Identifying Succession in a Forest Ecosystem	176
Activity 3: Creating a Climax Community in the Classroom	178
Adaptation and Evolution	182
Background Information	182
Activity 1: Understanding Innate Abilities and Learned Skills	187
Activity 2: Understanding Adaptation	190
Activity 3: Understanding Evolution through Natural Selection	192
Pollution	195
Background Information	195
Activity 1: Identifying Common Pollutants	199
Water Pollution	201
Background Information	201
Activity 1: Investigating Water Pollution	204
Activity 2: Investigating How a City Deals with Water Pollution	206
Air Pollution	208
Background Information	208
Activity 1: Investigating Air Pollution	211
RESOURCES	213
GLOSSARY	219