

Topics for explanatory lessons

Interpretive explanations

What are phyla?
What is a biome?
What is a fossil?
What is ecological succession?

Descriptive explanations

Where does the energy of the living world come from?
How do streams become polluted?
How do environmental factors influence the number of plants and animals in a particular area?
How are animals protected against the dangers of dying out?

Reason-giving explanations

Why are there no polar bears at the South Pole?
Why is soil considered to be an ecosystem?

Source: Brown, G.A. and Armstrong, S. (1984) Explaining and explanations. In E. C. Wragg (ed.) *Classroom Teaching Skills*. London: Croom Helm, pp. 121–48.