

# Not in My Niche

Take students on an imagination journey. Tell them to close their eyes and imagine that a new school is opening in a nearby neighborhood. The principal of the new school hired all the new teachers and staff. However, he or she accidentally hired everyone without reviewing their areas of expertise. This resulted in hiring only math teachers. On the first day of school, the students and math teachers arrive.

What will happen?

Will this new school function as well as your school?

Ask the students to write down their predictions, and then share them with the class.

Explain that schools and cities function best when different people perform different jobs.

Ecosystems operate in a similar way. Each organism has an area of expertise or serves a role in an ecosystem based on where it lives, what it consumes, and what it provides. This role is known as a niche.

