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| Table 1 Scoring rubric for Draw-an-Ecosystem exercise. Assign a number using your judgement for the eight categories. Maximum score is 8 x 3 = 24. | | | | |
| Category and score | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Nutrient cycling. Water, carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur, other.  Abiotic and biotic mass transfer | Positive & negative feedback arrows that also suggest magnitude. Characterize individual features as either source or sink | Positive & negative feedback arrows | A positive or negative feedback arrow  Or mention of nutrients | none |
| External energy input | Quantitative/qualitative aspect to labeling—energy source, sink. Magnitude and direction of energy transfer | Sun and labeled energy. Magnitude or direction | Sun drawn or labeled | none |
| Geosphere | Complex interaction with cycling of matter & energy | Cycling of matter or energy | Rock or soil; labeled or shown in cross-section | No soils/rock layers |
| Trophic levels/organism interrelationships  (biosphere) | More than two; arrows linking food web members (arrows distinct from feedback loops). Interspecific, intraspecific, saprophytic, autotrophic, heterotrophic (consumers) | Two: Consumer producer | One: Predator or prey | none |
| Human activities  (Cultural sphere) | Explicit mention of Humans incorporated into ecosystem, anthropogenic influences | Evidence of more than one type of human activity/product (buildings, smoke stacks, pavement) | Evidence of one human activity/product | No indications that human exist on planet |
| Hydrologic cycle  (hydrosphere) | Evidence of transformation of water forms, storage, residence time | More than one example—surface, underground, atmospheric, biosphere | Labeled or shown in cross-section | No water present in figure |
| Atmosphere | Complex interaction of  matter & energy | Habitat &/or multiple nutrient cycling | Water & O2 Cycling | No labeling |
| Systems and environmental issues | Illustrated example (e.g., Climate change and deforestation) | Stated example | Implied/inferred | none |
| Score |  |  |  |  |