

Ecological Patterns

BINGO

A self-guided exercise in observing living systems

Life occupying a crack or edge space	Deep roots reshaping their surroundings	Something invisible but essential	A visible response to feedback	Something that did not survive
An inter-dependency that is not immediately obvious	Insects interacting with plants or fungi	Redundancy (a back up system)	A visible system boundary or transition	A visible flow of energy or resources
Repeated natural structures	Regrowth after damage or disruption		Nutrient sharing	An extractive relationship
One species dominating or crowding out another	A space serving multiple purposes	A recovery process underway	Opportunistic growth	A response to scarcity
A distributed network	Nutrient build-up in one place	One living entity physically supporting another	New growth emerging from decay	A sign of stress or warning signal

A self-guided exercise

This card invites you to slow down and notice patterns in living systems.

Find a natural space: a park, garden, woodland, street tree, verge, pond, or any place where natural life is present. Using the bingo card, look for examples of ecological patterns around you.

You may choose to photograph what you find, sketch it, or simply make a mental note.

How to use this card

- Focus on living systems and ecological processes
- Nature may interact with human-made structures, but built infrastructure alone does not count
- The same organism can represent more than one pattern, but try not to rely on it for everything
- For each pattern, ask yourself: What am I seeing, and why does this fit?
- You can try to establish a bingo row, or you can pick-and-mix patterns to your liking

Words of wisdom

Trust your observation first, because there is not always one correct answer. What matters is your ability to notice, interpret, and explain the pattern you see.

Try to slow down, and look closely: you are *not* collecting objects. You are seeking to recognise patterns.

This exercise is part of Nature's Playbook: Ecological Design Thinking for a Circular Economy. Nature's Playbook is a research-based learning tool developed by Dr Emma H. E. Fromberg and supported by the Centre for Sustainable Business at King's College London.

Nature's Playbook uses ecological patterns and metaphors to support new ways of thinking about business, organisations, and the circular economy.

Discover more resources, workshops, and the tool at:

naturesplaybook.org