**AICE Environmental Management: Exploring the Biosphere Nature Journal**

**Part 1: Outdoor Observations**

In your notebook, record the following:

1. A sketch of the portion of the biosphere you are observing.
2. Describe your sketch in words. What does the environment look like?
3. Describe in complete sentences the climate of the area. Temperature? Light? Other abiotic factors? Discuss at least four abiotic factors that we talked about in class.
4. Find three examples of biotic components of the environment around you. For each,
   1. Sketch the organism (do your best!)
   2. Describe the organism in words—what kind of living thing is it and what do you think it does in the environment?
   3. What other organisms might your organism interact with?
5. Describe one human impact you see on the environment.

**Part 2: Group Discussion and Research**

In your notebook, you are now going to:

1. Discuss with the other people in your lab group what they observed outside. Compare notes and record at least two aspects of the environment that other people noticed that you might have missed.
2. Grab a textbook and find the following (Hint: pages 99-101 will be helpful!)
   1. What is the technical term for the biome zone we live in?
   2. What are the expected characteristics of this biome?
   3. What did you observe that matched these expectations?
   4. What did you observe that did not fit in with our biome’s expectations? Explain why you think this is.
   5. What should be our biome’s average temperature and precipitation?