



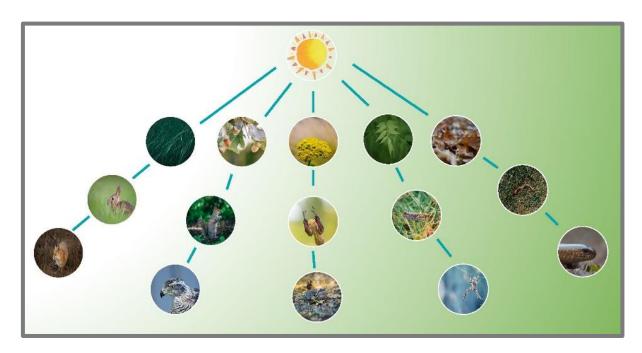






Background information

Food chains are a part of everyday life and we can use them to explain how energy flows from the sun, through the eco system and how some of it flows into us and gives us the energy we need to go about our daily lives. All the natural world relies on energy from the sun from plants through insects, birds and on to the top predators. Understanding energy flow and food chains allows children to grasp how we must be careful not to disrupt the eco system and the consequences to different species of our actions.



Climate perspective

It is well documented that rapid changes in climate can drastically affect eco systems. Although there have been changes in climate throughout history when it happens at speed there is no opportunity for species to adapt which results in a loss of biodiversity. Each species lost has an effect on other areas of the eco system. If it is a prey species lost it causes food shortages for predators or if a predator for a particular species is lost, then that causes

over population of the prey species and no predator to control it. As the climate warms there is evidence of species succeeding in areas they have not previously been found and pushing out the native species. Some have been introduced such as the Signal Crayfish, but others have found their own way such as the Harlequin Ladybird. This is a problem that is becoming more and more common, and steps must be taken to protect our native wildlife.

Who eats What? Foundation Phase

This activity allows children to work out different food chains using the cards provided and gain an understanding that all food chains start with the sun which is constantly giving us energy. They can then go on to create their own cards to make a food chain. They can then act out their own food chain stories by pretending to eat each other!

Materials needed:

- Food chain cards (enough for the whole class).
 These are better printed onto A3
- Blank cards



Step 1

Before the session starts sort the food chain cards so you have one card per child making up complete food chains.

Step 2

Ask the group to stand in a circle and give every child a card which they hold up in front of them so everyone can see it. As you go round the circle ask each child to identify where in a food chain they would fit e.g. if they have the sun they are at the start of the chain or if they are the mouse they can identify what they might eat and what may eat them.



Step 3

Get the children to arrange themselves into their food chains and prepare a short performance where they act out the food chain.

Watch each group in turn and see if the rest of the group can guess what animals they are.

Curriculum Links

Area of Learning and Experience - Science and Technology

Statement of What Matters:

The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival.

Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe.

Area of Learning and Experience – Expressive Arts **Statement of What Matters:** Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination.

Next steps and other ideas

• As a next step try the web of life activity. https://kidszoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Web-of-Life-Game.pdf. This explores what happens when something in the eco system is lost.



