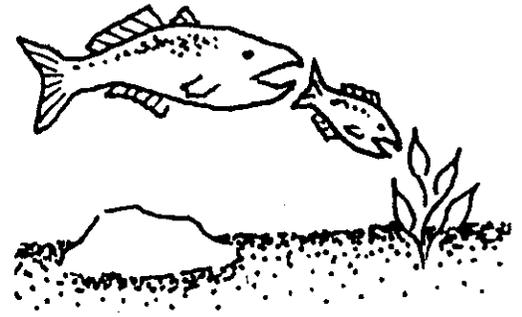


The Food Web

Grades 2-3



Overview

The students will play a **Food Chain Game** and make a **Food Web** to help them understand how plants and animals interact.

Objectives

- To help students understand that plant and animal life depends on one another for survival.
- To help students understand the importance of protecting all plant and animal life.

Materials

For the presenter:

- 1 small piece of candy for each student (Tootsie Roll etc.)
- butcher paper - about 6' x 6'
- glue
- wide black marking pen

For each pair of students:

- nature word glued on a 6" x 9" piece of white art paper
- crayons

Getting Ready

Hang the butcher paper up in front of the class where the students will be able to see and reach it. Hide 5 pieces of candy in one area of the classroom. Don't make it too difficult to find. You want the students to be able to find it in about 1-2 minutes. Divide the students into four groups. Glue the nature words on to 6" x 9" pieces of white art paper. Make sure you have enough words so each pair of students has a different word to illustrate.

Procedures

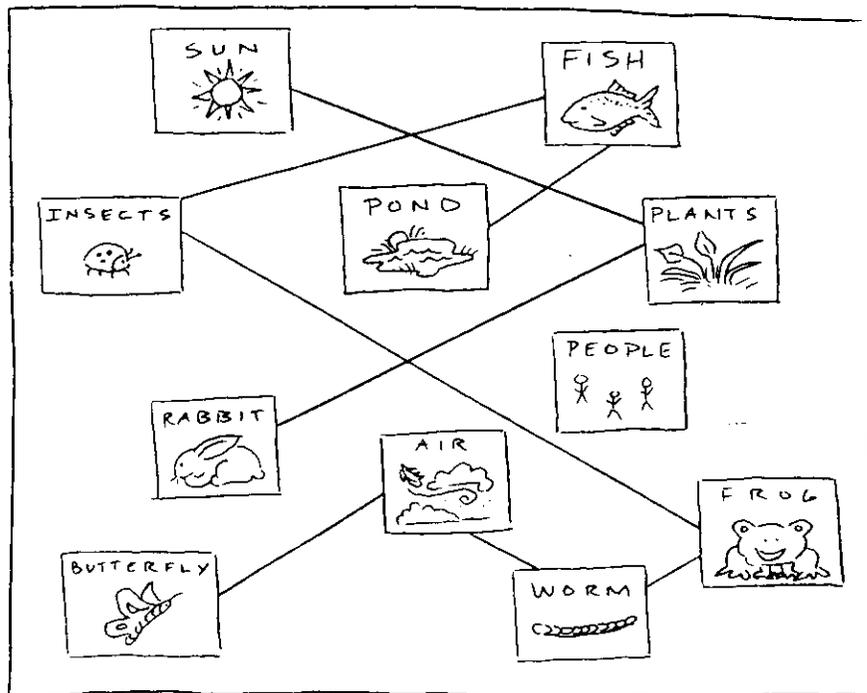
Activity 1: The Food Chain Game

1. Tell the students that they are going to play a river game and today the front of the classroom is the river. Show them where the boundaries are.
2. The students should be divided into 4 groups. Assign each group a name: insects, small fish, large fish and people.
3. Tell the insects to move around and find a plant to eat (candy). Show them what a plant looks like and the area that they will find one. When they find a piece, they pick it up and hold it.
4. When 5 plants are found, say: "The river does not have enough food for all the insects; those who do not find food, did not survive and must return to their desks."
5. Tell the insects to stay in the river. Direct the small fish to swim up and touch an insect. If they catch an insect, the insect returns to his desk and the small fish takes his place in the river. The small fish who do not catch an insect do not survive and must return to their desks.
6. The large fish, pretending to swim, will try to catch a small fish. Those who do not catch a small fish do not survive and must sit down. The small fish that are caught sit down and the large fish take their place in the river.
7. The people do the same as the above. The children should begin to see how all living things depend on each other for food. When there was not enough plants, some fish died, etc.
8. Give all the students a plant (candy).
9. Ask: "What would happen to the small fish if all the plants were gone? What would happen to the large fish if the small fish were gone? What would happen to the people if the large fish were gone? Why is it important to take care of our rivers, streams and lakes?"

Activity 2: Making a Food Web

Explain that they are going to make a Food Web that will show what they just learned playing the Food Chain Game.

1. Hand out a nature sheet to each pair of students.
2. Explain that they will need to draw a picture that illustrates the word on their sheet.
3. As the students finish, glue their pictures on the butcher paper.
4. Ask: "Can you see any pictures that need each other to live? (*sun and the plant*). Why?"
5. Draw a line between the two pictures that interact.
6. Continue to discuss all the pictures, drawing lines between the ones that interact.
7. Remove one picture, ask: "What would happen if this was no longer here?" (*plant - the rabbit would not have anything to eat.*)
8. Pretend that you sprayed an insecticide that kills insects. Ask: "What would happen to the food web without insects?"



Closure

Have each pair of students tell each other the answers to these questions. “What kinds of things can we do to help our environment? Why is it important that we protect it? What will happen if we don’t take care of all plants and animals?” Ask a couple of students to share their answers with the whole class.

Nature Words

Sun

Air

Fish

Pond

Plants

Raccoon

Ants

Ducks

People

Rabbit

Beaver

Frogs

Trees

Birds

Worms

Butterflies

Bald Eagle

Clover

Mice

Flies