



ANIMAL FOOD CHAINS & WEBS!

VIDEO URL

<https://youtu.be/jsG8znVLRb4>

TIME

30 - 60 minutes

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the difference between a food chain and a food web
- Understand the dependence of one animal on another as food chains interconnect to create food webs
- Explore the role of organisms, decomposers, scavengers, predators, and prey in an animal's life cycle
- Discuss photosynthesis and begin to understand how plants convert energy from the sun into food
- Explore various ecosystems around the world and learn which plants and animals live in which ecosystems

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Animals Photos
- Paper & Writing Utensil

Optional:

- Animal Crackers
- Animal Rubber Stamps
- Access to the Internet
- Scissors

MODIFICATIONS

The optional materials can be used to adjust the lesson plan as needed to best suit the child. An adult can write or type for the child if need be, or the lesson can be completed in pairs or groups.

LESSON

- Determine youths' background knowledge related to animals, food chains, and food webs and discuss as needed
- Explain that we will be making examples of food chains and food webs to learn the differences between them
- Discuss the role of different kinds of organisms as well as photosynthesis
- Have youth create their food chains using the materials you have provided/available, giving them plenty of time to create!
- Discuss/share each child's food chain and ask how they can turn their food chain into a food web. Discuss answers, eat the animal crackers as a snack, and extend the lesson as time allows

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Review the following terms and ask youth where they see each in the food chain they have created:
 - organism, ecosystem, photosynthesis, decomposer, scavenger, predator, prey
- Ask:
 - Where are humans in the food chain?
 - Where are they in a food web?
- Discuss the impact of humans on food chains and food webs
- Ask youth what they learned from this activity and discuss answers
- Discuss the concept of competition (the struggle between organisms of the same species for limited resources) and how humans play a role as time allows

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about ecosystems:
<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/10-things-ecosystems/>

To learn more about food webs:
https://www.ducksters.com/science/ecosystems/food_chain_and_web.php

To learn more about photosynthesis:
<https://photosynthesiseducation.com/photosynthesis-for-kids/>

To learn more about food chains:
<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/food-chain/353141>



WHO WE ARE

4-H began over 100 years ago, and has since grown into the largest youth development program in the nation. 4-H prepares young people to be leaders in their community and around the world through hands-on experiences alongside their peers and caring adults. 4-H delivers research-based programming around positive youth development. In Indiana, 4-H can be found in all 92 counties as delivered through Purdue Extension. Community clubs, afterschool programs, school enrichment, camps/workshops, and special programs are all ways youth across Indiana can be involved with the 4-H program. For more info, visit extension.purdue.edu/4h.