

Who Eats Who?

Program Description: Appropriate for ages 7 - 10 (2nd - 5th grades)

Focus on predator/prey relationships, (handouts feature owls and bats) and define and discuss how producers and consumers fit in. Define ecosystems, related vocabulary and food chains/webs. Discuss how important each link is in the chain or web and what the impact would be if a particular animal did not exist. Create a food chain with nesting tubes. Talk about competition and what that means to an ecosystem and food chains/webs.

Key Activities:

Name that 'Vore Game - Define and talk about Herbivores, Carnivores and Omnivores. Discuss food chains and webs and how some are producers and some are consumers. Show visuals. Then discuss ecosystems and give examples like rainforest, desert, forest, plain, ocean, etc. Then introduce the game - show a picture and the children must shout out whether the animal pictured is an herbivore, carnivore or an omnivore, producer or consumer, and guess in which ecosystem the animal lives.

Food Chain - Split into small groups and give each group a list of animals that they must put into food chain order. Each child will be responsible for studying the animal (facts on back of picture), coloring the picture and affixing the picture to a nesting tube. Then, the group members will present each animal and say which ecosystem the chain represents. Discuss what would happen if one specific link in the food chain is removed.

Competition - Define competition as it applies in nature, and briefly go over the effects of competition, such as adaptations and niches. Define and discuss exotics and invaders and how they may or may not find a niche in a particular ecosystem. Show posters of animals and ask if the animal is an exotic or an invader to our area.

Presenter:

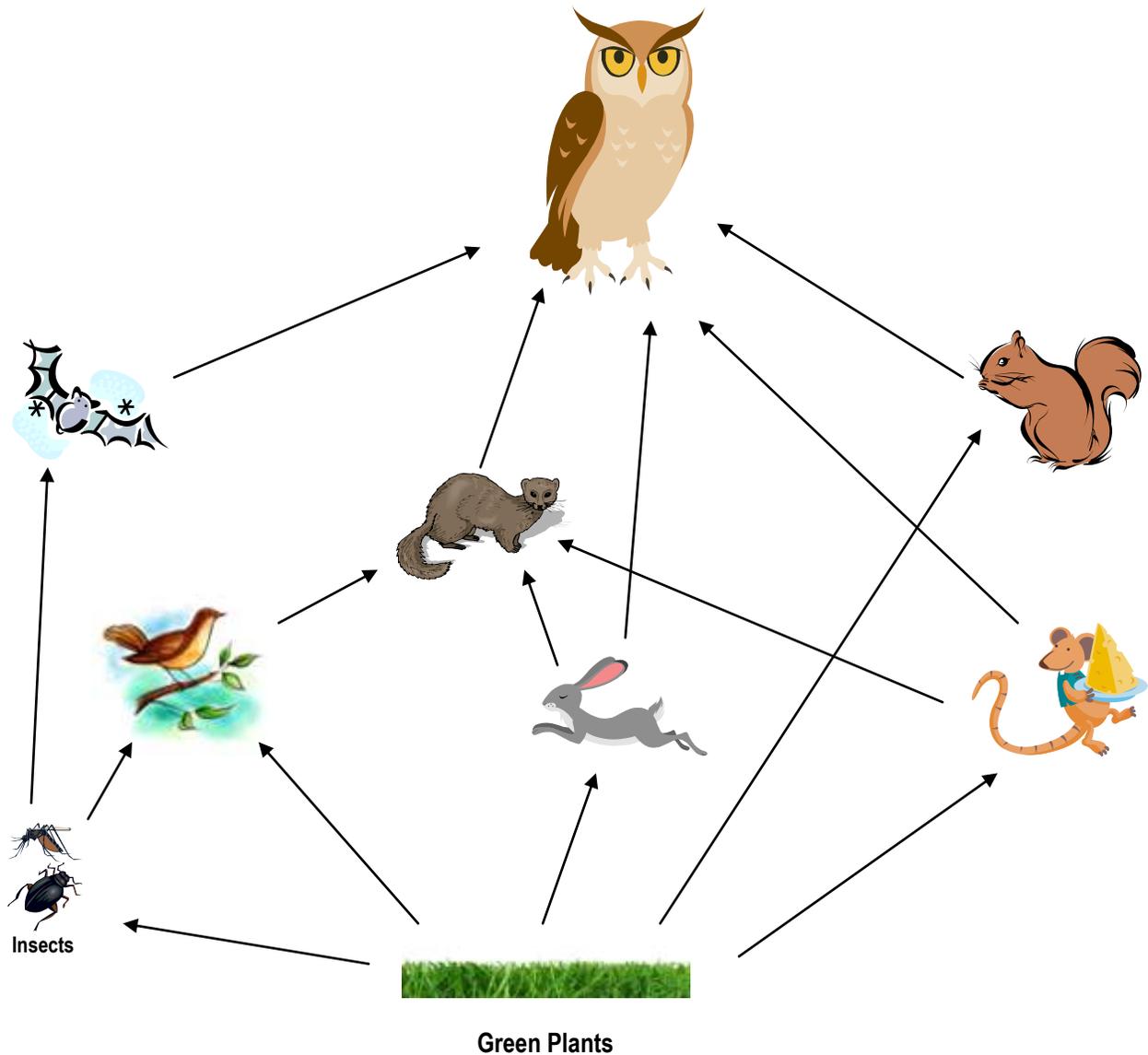
Someone from TWRA, from the UT Ag Extension office can be contacted to come and do a short presentation, or, in the case of a special guest like the Animal Guy (Bob Tarter), an hour-long special program with live animals.

Hike:

The hiking trail is available for groups to traverse in short or longer distances, depending on the size and ability level of participants. A portion of the trail is handicapped accessible.

Who Eats Who?

Answer the questions below using the owl food web:



1. Circle the animals that are herbivores.
 2. Cross out the animals that are carnivores.
 3. Name 1 producer. _____
 4. Name 2 consumers. _____
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-

Facts:

Herbivores are animals that only eat plants.

Carnivores are animals that only eat other animals (meat).

Producers are organisms that make their own food through photosynthesis.

Consumers are organisms that cannot make their own food, so they must get food from somewhere else.

Who Eats Who?

Chart It: Put the characteristics in the right column

	Owl	Bat
What does it eat?		
What kind of animal is it?		
Where does it sleep?		
List two special things about it.		

Characteristics

pellets mammal nest mosquitoes bird

echolocation cave nocturnal hibernate silent flight

What would happen?

Tell a story about what you think would happen if mosquitoes were taken out of the food web.

Additional Resources

Books are available at Maury County Public Library

<http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm>

This is an awesome website that has games, activities, contests and reading lists for kids and educators.

Food Chains and Webs by Holly Wallace

A great resource for grades 2-5 that explains all kinds of ecosystems and the food webs that exist within them with a handy glossary.

The Kids' Wildlife Book, by Warner Shedd

An all-around great reference book for kids of all ages.

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngexplorer/0309/quickflicks/>

Among other resources for kids and teachers, this site has a cute movie about food chains and ecosystems as well as a quiz.

Nature with Children of All Ages, by Edith A. Sisson

This is a good resource for educators and parents who wish to incorporate easy to do nature activities and experiments.

Sam and the Firefly by P.D. Eastman

A cute story about an owl and a firefly.

The Secret by Lindsay Barrett George

A cute story featuring all kinds of animals that could be a great way to introduce the food chain/web subject to preschoolers and maybe use it as a basis for a role-play exercise.

Wildlife, Wildflowers, and Wild Activities: Exploring Southern Appalachia, by Jennifer Bauer

This is another good resource for educators and parents who wish to incorporate easy to do nature activities and experiments.

Curriculum Standards Addressed

English

Std. 1 - Language
Std. 2 - Communication
Std. 3 - Writing
Std. 5 - Logic
Std. 6 - Informational Text

Reading

1.0 - Development of Reading & Listening Skills

Science

Std. 1 - Embedded Inquiry
Std. 2 - Interdependence
Std. 5 - Biodiversity & Change

Social Studies *

1.0 - Culture
3.0 - Geography

Survey

Using a scale of 1-10, with 1 being “terrible” and 10 being “excellent,”
how would you rate the following aspects of the packet?

Overall organization of packet? _____

Material covered in packet? _____

What was your favorite part of the packet and why?

What was your least favorite part of the packet and why? _____

Did you find the available handouts helpful? Why or why not? _____

What could be done to improve future environmental education endeavors? (special topics,
other types of programs, facilities, etc.)

Other comments:
