

Food Chains

To show that living things can be placed in food chains to depict how they get their energy

Years: Year2	Total Duration: 2 hours
Curriculum Links Living things and their habitats •describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food •identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats Animals, including humans •find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)	
Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• that food chains can be used to represent how energy passes from one organism to another in a habitat• that the sun provides the energy to start most food chains and that most food chains start with a green plant• that a plant is a producer and that animals are consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All children will be able state direction energy flows in a food chain• Most children will be able to create a food chain with at least three components• Some children will be able to categorise living things as producers or consumers within a food chain

Programme Summary

The session gives pupils an opportunity to explore the concept of food chains. Using the centre's collection of live and stuffed animals and skull collection children will be able to classify animals into herbivores, carnivores, omnivores and detritivores and construct simple food chains. The importance of green plants will be discussed and the children will then use keys to identify their finds from their time exploring the two main habitats of the wildlife area. Tally chart sheets will allow the children to record their finds.

Pre-visit Preparation

If you have not visited the centre before a pre-visit is essential.

It helps to brief the children before a visit. Talk through the activities that they will be doing and discuss key vocabulary. What is a food chain? What animals might be in a woodland or pond food chain? Work on feeding groups.

Pre-visit ideas	Post-visit ideas
Work on food chains around the world Using keys to sort animals and plants into groups Research on common minibeasts and plant species	Pupils could design their own made up creature predator or prey, explaining why it has certain features Food chain games and mobiles

Please refer to our Health & Safety Information for risk assessments and an outline of the school and Ecology Centre responsibilities.