



2nd Grade:

2-LS4-1: Students will make observations during provided activities of plants, animals, and the ecosystem to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. They will also identify problems and solutions to protect the natural world.

- 1) Introduce lesson plan activity: Top of the Food Chain
 - a. What does it mean to be at the top of the food chain? Which species would this consist of? Create a class list.
 - b. How do these animals survive?
 - c. Which habitats do they live in? What other kinds of life live there?
- 2) What does it mean to be at the bottom of the food chain?
 - a. Which species are they?
 - b. How do they survive?
 - c. Are they plants, animals, or both?
- 3) Introduce trophic classification: Primary producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, and tertiary consumers. **Worksheet Pages 9-10**
 - a. Use the predators vs. prey animal sheets (one sheet per student) **Worksheet Pages 17-19**
 - b. Have students write on the back of the photo which trophic level these animals belong to.
 - c. Have students arrange the photos with producers at the bottom, primary consumers, secondary consumers, and tertiary consumers at the top. (Students can work together as a class poster, or work in groups/individually).
 - i. This is called a food chain, everything gains energy from the bottom up. **(Worksheet Page 10)**
 - d. With the same pictures, have students arrange them randomly and glue them to a piece of paper. Draw an arrow from each living species of what it eats.
 - i. What happens when you take one of these species away?
 - ii. This is called a food web, everything is connected and energy flows through each species in different habitats. **Worksheet page 13**
- 4) Print out a class set of predator vs. prey sheets, and follow instructions for the game. **Worksheet Pages 15-19**
 - i. Take students to an area where they can play tag (indoor or outdoor).
 - ii. Follow instructions for the game, going over rules beforehand.
- 5) Class Discussion
 - a. Why is it important to have a variety of species within different ecosystems?
 - b. What happens when you remove a part of the food chain?
 - c. How does losing species affect humans?
 - d. What can we do to protect the environment?
 - e. Is there anything that you learned today that is important to share with others?
 - f. Share with the class some ways that you can help protect the balance of the natural world.