



Kindergarten

K-LS1-1: Students will **identify patterns** within the food chain and web, and what these species need to survive.

K-ESS3-3: Students will **communicate solutions** of human impact to the environment, and how we can save living things to maintain the balance of the ecosystem.

Class Procedure: Introduce the theme of the lesson to the class: Top of the Food Chain

- 1) Ask students to describe what kind of animals are predators. Create a class list.
 - a. What do predators do?
 - b. Why are they important?
 - c. How would losing predators change the environment?
 - d. Should you take predators away from the wild? Why or why not?
- 2) Have students brainstorm and describe all of the different forms of life in an ecosystem.
 - i. Complete **Worksheet Pages 9-10** and discuss as a class.
- 3) What is a producer? Where do they get their energy from?
- 4) What is a herbivore? Where do they get their energy from?
- 5) What is an omnivore? Where do they get their energy from? (hyenas)
 - i. Hint, humans are also omnivores
- 6) What is a carnivore? Where do they get their energy from?
- 7) Where are each of these species on the food chain?
- 3) Have students get in a line with a string or rope. Have them form themselves into a chain (a linear line).
 - a. Assign them each an animal/ from the predator vs. prey game.
 - b. In a straight line, have them stand with carnivores at the top, omnivores after them, herbivores after, and then primary producers at the end (plants and fungi).

This is what a food chain looks like. All energy starts at the bottom (with primary producers receiving energy from the sun), and the energy moves up the food chain.

- 4) Now, have students rearrange their chain into a web, by grabbing onto the piece of string of all of the plants or animals that they would eat. This is called a food web, everything is connected and depends on each other. **Worksheet Page 10.**
- 5) Predator Prey game: **Worksheet Pages 13-17.**
 - a. Take students to a place where they can play tag (outdoor or indoor).
 - b. Follow instructions for game of tag. Go over rules before starting.
- 6) Class Discussion
 - a. What is the difference between the food chain and food web?
 - b. If we lose parts of the food web, how does it affect other life? How does it affect humans?
 - c. What are some solutions to protecting the ecosystem?
 - d. What did you learn today?