



Second Nature - Food Webs

Today we learned

A **predator** is an animal that naturally eats other animals and a **prey** is an animal that naturally gets eaten by other animals. A **food web** describes the dynamic relationship between different plants and animals in an ecosystem, and consists of various **food chains**. At the bottom of food chains are **primary producers** which create their own food and don't hunt for prey. For example, plants are primary producers! At the top of the food chain is an **apex predator** which does not get hunted by other animals. For example, humans and sharks are apex predators!

Every part of every food web is important for healthy ecosystems! So what is our part in ensuring strong and healthy food webs? We can plant flowers so bees (which rely on their nectar and pollen) can get their energy! We can avoid polluting so that plants and animals in the food web have a clean habitat to live and hunt in! We can also put out bird feeders in our windows or backyards!

Now at home

Activity 1 - Predator and Prey Hide-and-Seek

This is a twist on a traditional game of hide-and-seek! As a reminder, there is one seeker with one or more people hiding. The seeker closes their eyes for a period of time while the hider(s) finds a place to hide. The seeker then opens their eyes and looks for the people that are hiding!

For this version of hide-and-seek, have your child pick a predator and prey relationship. For example, a bear and salmon, a rabbit and lettuce, or a sea otter and clams. The person that seeks is the predator and the person that hides is the prey. If you have multiple people in the household that would like to play, you can have multiple prey! If you want to make a food web you can choose different animals as the prey. Lastly, get creative and dress up as the animals/plants you are playing as!

Activity 2 - Food Web Drawing

Every single living organism on this planet has its place on a food web, including your child's favorite animal! Have your child pick an animal they would like to learn more about. Have a discussion about how that animal fits into a food web. Is it a predator or prey? Or both? Does it have a predator or is it an apex predator? Does it eat animals, plants, or both? If needed, do some research online with your child!

Have your child draw the animal in its habitat! Remember that a habitat consists of open space, shelter, water and food! Since food is one of the main parts of a habitat, ask your child to include some of the animal's food web.

To send us any photos, videos, or questions, email us at education@sproutup.org!

