

## FOREST FOOD WEB ACTIVITY

(follow-up activity, using information gathered in the program)

**Grades:** 3, 4, 6, 7

**Source:** adapted from Focus on Forests

### Basic Description:

Students will be introduced to food webs and ecological interconnections in the forest, and place different life forms in their proper place in a food chain. Students will come to appreciate the fragile balance of nature and how humans are affected by the extinction of animals. Students will also realize the importance of their own actions.

### Materials:

- diagram of food chain and food web
- food chain and web worksheets
- writing materials

**Time Allotment:** 45-60 minutes

### ACTIVITY:

Have students draw a food web based on plants and animals seen during their trip to RBG. Remind them of the different interactions between plants and animals, shared food sources, etc. For example, students may wish to use different colours for the arrows i.e. the transfer of energy from plants, to the rabbit, to the owl and wolf is red, the transfer of energy from plants, to the beaver, to the wolf is blue, etc. The images can be used for evaluation and posted throughout the classroom.

### EXTENSIONS:

- Transfer student food webs to thicker cardboard or plywood. Create food webs with string art.
- Make a food web of your own diet for the day, e.g. milk from a cow that ate grass, etc. Compare your food web to that of the forest web. Is it more complicated? Why? Why not?
- Research different ecosystems and food webs. How are humans part of those systems? How do they impact them? Compare a forest food web and ecosystem to that of another natural region e.g. wetlands, aquatic, desert, arctic, etc.
- Make a list of the plant and animal life found in your area.
- Make a food web using these. Don't forget to include humans.



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