

Name: _____ Date: _____ Bell: _____



Activity: Food Webs (Teacher Guide)

Question: How do food webs and interactions between species vary among different ecosystems?

Materials:

- Student sheets
- Food web cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pen or pencil
- Construction paper or poster board

Procedure:

To **engage** students, start by showing photos of different organisms, such as a shrub, turkey, deer, and a coy wolf and then ask the students how those organisms survive. Then show a specific ecosystem and ask how do these species interact. Students will then **explore** different food webs found in different ecosystems.

Each cooperative team should be handed a bundle of food web cards that represent a food web from a specific ecosystem, such as desert, arctic tundra, rainforest, deciduous forest, and savannah. The teams will remove the food web cards from the envelope and identify the trophic level (producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, decomposer) in the observation chart on their student sheets. Students should arrange their cards to show 3 different food chains and record this in their food chain chart. Students may use the same species in multiple food chains. Then students will arrange a food web that shows connections between the three food chains on their food chain chart. Students will draw their food web on their student sheets by putting the name and sketch of each species at the appropriate trophic level and arrows showing energy passing from one species to another.

After the students have completed this activity, have students answer the analysis questions based on the food web information they collected. Students can discuss these questions in their teams and then a class discussion can be done.

End the lesson by having students write an **explanation** comparing and contrasting their food webs to other ecosystem food webs.