



Objective

The objective is to illustrate a food chain and demonstrate the characteristics that determine an organism's place in the food chain.

Materials

Templates (see Preparation Instructions)	Medium weight string- 2 yards
2 pieces of posterboard	Large needle to punch holes through posterboard
pencil	Paint brushes
markers (optional)	Cups for paint
Quick dry glue or double tac sticky tape	Bucket or larger cup for paint water
Poster, acrylic or tempera paints	Plastic beads

Preparation

1. Make an overhead projection transparency from the template diagram on the following page.
2. Pin the first piece of posterboard to the wall.
3. Place the transparency on an overhead projector and blow projection up to fit the whole piece of posterboard. Don't worry if you use something other than standard size posterboard, just make sure that both pieces are the same size. The projection will blow things up proportionally.
4. Turn out the lights and trace the projected image onto the posterboard and cut the templates out. Generally 1 complete set of templates is adequate for 3 – 4 students.

Activity Day 1

(Must do Discussion Activity First)

1. Have children trace templates onto their 2 pieces of posterboard and cut out.
2. Follow directions on templates to construct boxes and join seams with quick dry glue or tape.
3. Have children make up their own food chain. Assign each box an organism working from largest to smallest or vice versa in order of the organisms place in the food chain. Each child should determine the animals that will be in their food chain, for example a dog or a wolf could be pictured as a carnivore.
4. Stack boxes within one another with open side of box down.

Activity Day 2

1. Paint boxes according to the organisms selected and let dry.
2. Punch holes in the center tops of all the boxes with a needle.
3. Tie a knot on the end of your string large enough to keep it from going through the hole of the smallest box. Thread string through that hole and follow diagram 1 to assemble the rest of the boxes on the string.
4. Now you have made a foodchain puppet! Slowly lower the boxes over one another to see all of the smaller boxes get eaten up!

Discussion

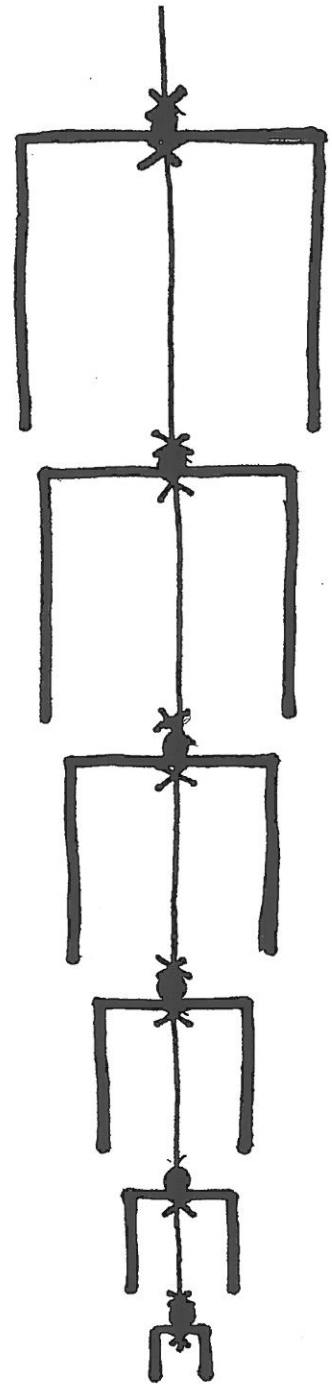
1. Have a discussion about what a food chain is.
2. Go through the characters in a food chain.

Green Plants – The Producers: Living things, which take the non-living, matter from the environment, such as minerals and gases and uses them to support life.

Herbivores, Carnivores, and Omnivores, – The Consumers: These living things need the producers to be their food. Herbivores eat plants and are considered next in the food chain. Carnivores eat other animals and are considered next. Omnivores eat both and are next after carnivores.

Decomposers: Living things, which feed off dead plants and animals and reduce their remains to minerals.

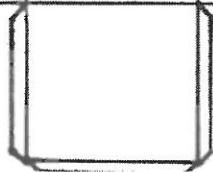
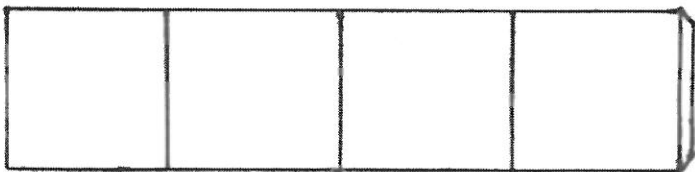
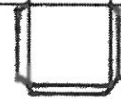
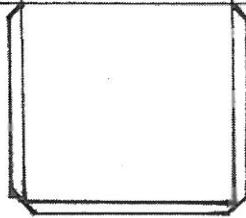
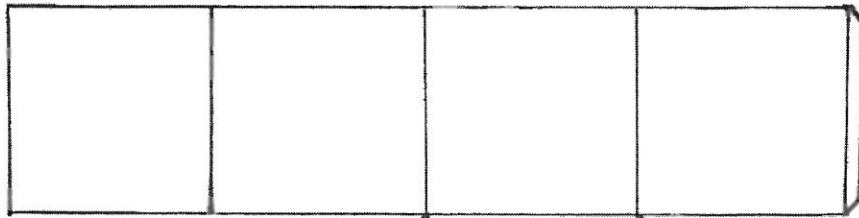
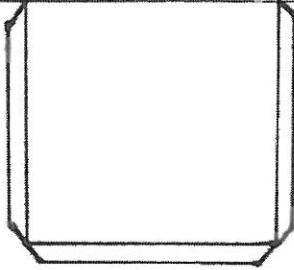
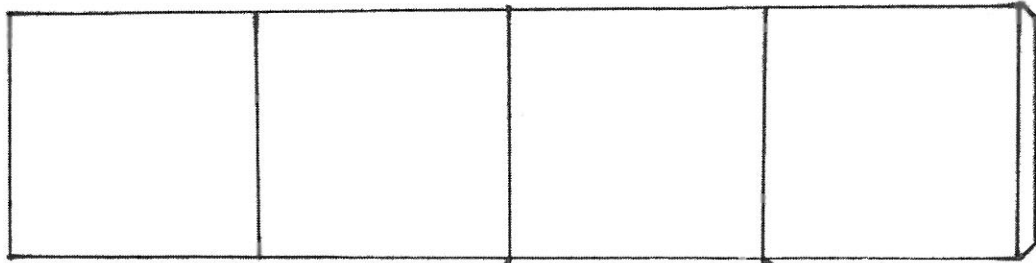
3. Discuss the characteristics each organism has that determines its place in a food chain, such as kinds of teeth, claws, size.



Food Chain Diagram

X Knot
● Bead





Food Chain Template