

Food Chain Adventure

SCIENCE



Book Builder

Overview

Students follow energy through an ecosystem by telling the story of a single meal, page by page.

Steps for Teachers

1. Review producers, consumers and decomposers
2. Students choose a real ecosystem and research what lives there
3. Students build a chain of at least four links, starting with the sun
4. Students plan one page per link, showing the energy being passed on
5. Students write each page from the point of view of the organism doing the eating
6. Students add a decomposer page showing what happens to what is left
7. Students add a final page that loops the energy back to the producer
8. Students check a classmate's chain for a broken or reversed link

Example

A student follows a salt marsh: the sun feeds the cordgrass, a marsh periwinkle grazes the grass, a blue crab takes the snail, a heron takes the crab, and fiddler crabs and bacteria break the heron down until the cordgrass grows again out of the same mud.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Chain Accuracy	Every link is real for that ecosystem and points the right way	Chain is plausible with one questionable link	Links are invented or the direction of energy is reversed
Energy Concept	The book makes clear that energy is being transferred, not created	Energy transfer is implied but not stated	The book reads as a list of animals rather than a flow
Ecosystem Completeness	Producers, consumers and decomposers all appear and connect	One role is missing or underdeveloped	Only consumers are represented
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent