

Food Chain Adventure

SCIENCE



Overview

Students create an animated story following energy through a food chain, demonstrating understanding of producers, consumers, and decomposers.

Steps for Teachers

1. Review food chain concepts: producers, primary/secondary/tertiary consumers, decomposers
2. Students select an ecosystem to focus on (ocean, forest, grassland, etc.)
3. Students research a complete food chain within that ecosystem
4. Students write a narrative script following energy from sun to decomposer
5. Students create characters for each organism in their food chain
6. Students record the adventure, showing each energy transfer
7. Compare different ecosystem food chains as a class

Example

A student creates an ocean food chain story. The sun character shines on phytoplankton: 'I give energy to these tiny plants!' Phytoplankton is eaten by a small fish: 'Yum! Now I have energy to swim!' The small fish is caught by a tuna: 'Thanks for the meal!' A shark eats the tuna, then eventually dies. Bacteria appear: 'We break down the shark and return nutrients to the water. The cycle continues!'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Food Chain Accuracy	All organisms correctly placed; realistic food chain	Food chain is mostly accurate with minor errors	Significant errors in food chain relationships
Energy Transfer Understanding	Clearly shows energy moving through the chain	Energy transfer is mentioned but not emphasized	Energy transfer concept is missing or incorrect
Ecosystem Knowledge	All organisms appropriate for chosen ecosystem	Most organisms fit the ecosystem	Organisms don't belong in the same ecosystem
Narrative Engagement	Compelling story that makes learning enjoyable	Reasonably engaging narrative	Dry presentation without story elements