

Forester Activity 2

Forest Food Chains

Age range:

7-11

Duration:

Approx 90 mins

Aim

For pupils to learn about the plants and animals found in woodland ecosystems and examples of forest food chains.

Learning Objectives

Pupils should learn:

- What types of plants and animals are found in British woodlands
- About the feeding relationships between these living things
- Some examples of woodland food chains



Curriculum for Excellence Links (Experiences & Outcomes)

SCIENCES – Plant Earth: Biodiversity & Interdependence *SCN 2-02a/2-02b*



Materials and Equipment

- Computers
- Encyclopaedias of various types, plus dictionaries
- Scissors, paperclips, string
- 40 small white cards, about A7 size
- Copies of Worksheet Fo2 (one per pupil if required – see below)



Key Vocabulary

forest, woodland, food chains, predators, consumer, producers



Running the activity

a) Introduction:

Show a BBC video clip about food chains to remind them how food chains work. To show the clip, go to www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips and type in 'food chains forest'. Choose the clip called 'Food chains' with the cat image. Ask pupils to name some typical plants and animals found in a UK forest or woodland and make a list. Can anyone make a food chain from one of them? Remind pupils that food chains start with a plant, the producer, and end with a predator. Tell the pupils that they are going to make some woodland food chain mobiles.

b) Identifying Food Chains:

Using Worksheet Fo2, pupils identify some woodland food chains and research some more. Give these out and allow the pupils to work on them in pairs, using reference books and websites for help. Here are the answers to the food chain puzzles on the worksheet:

sycamore leaf - worm - badger	honeysuckle – aphid – hoverfly - thrush
blackberry - vole - tawny owl	grass - slug - hedgehog
acorn - mouse - polecat	dandelion – rabbit - fox
beech leaf - millipede - ground beetle - wolf spider - blackbird	

c) Discussion:

Discuss the food chains; help pupils to understand how they keep the woodland alive, and that a forester helps all of the plants and animals by maintaining the forest and replacing trees that have been cut down.

d) Food Chain Mobiles:

Pupils can make the food chain mobiles as follows:

- Put the pupils into groups of three
- Assign each group a food chain from the worksheet
- On small cards each pupil draws the organisms of one food chain, having found pictures to copy from books or other.
- The mobiles should have the producer at the bottom and the top level predator at the top and should be joined using paper clips hooked together. They can be hung up on display in the classroom

Extension Activities

Discuss what happens to a food chain if one of the living things dies out, for example, due to disease.

What food chains happen in the environs of the school? Even in inner-city areas there are animals that must eat to survive.

Visit a forest and go on a woodland trail, where an experienced guide can show you evidence of forest food chains in action.

Background Information for Teachers

Go to Teachers > Useful links to find out more about foresters and their work



F02: Forest Food Chains

All living things need food to survive. Trees and other plants in the forest make their own food from sunlight. But what do animals eat in forests? Here is a well-known woodland food chain.



The arrow means 'is eaten by'.

The oak leaf is a plant – the **producer**.

The caterpillar eats the plant; it is a **consumer**.

The blue tit and sparrowhawks eat other animals, so they are **predators**.

1. Can you put these forest food chains in the right order? If you don't know what the plants or animals are, look them up in a reference book or website.

- worm - sycamore leaf - badger
- vole - blackberry - tawny owl
- acorn – polecat - mouse
- rabbit – fox - dandelion
- grass – hedgehog - slug
- aphid - thrush – honeysuckle - hoverfly
- wolf spider – blackbird – millipede - ground beetle - beech leaf

2. Now do some research and find another woodland food chain:

3. How do foresters help to feed all of the living things in a woodland food chain?

On the Back

Sketch two more animals not mentioned here that are found in British woodlands.

