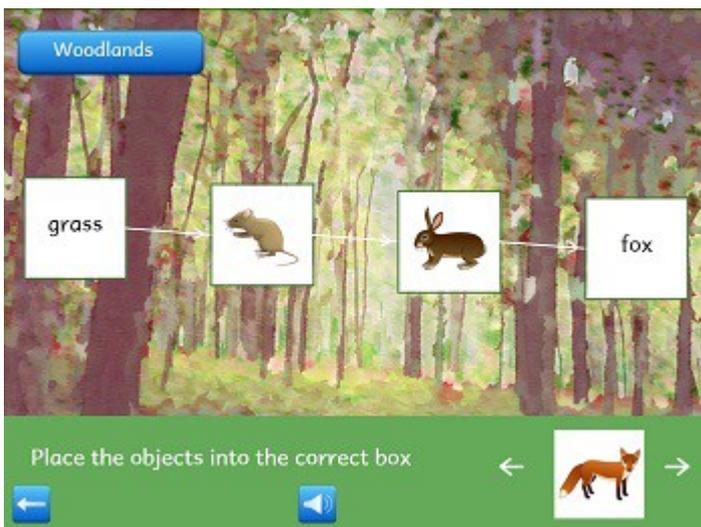


Food Chains

How to use the activity

This activity allows children to explore different food chains and food webs in five different ecosystems:

- Woodlands
- An African Rainforest
- African Savannah
- Arctic Tundra
- The Ocean



Children need to complete a sequence of animals and plants which make up the food chain. An item from the chain will be shown at the bottom of the screen, which children can drag into the correct position on the screen, or touch or click on one of the arrow buttons to change the item.

When an item has been placed in the correct position, children may touch or click on the image to hear and see a short description of the animal or plant.

The program has a reporting page to see how many items children have placed correctly, and an options page to allow the activity to be tailored for different children – for example, level, sound on/off or allowing more complex food webs to be used.

The Option Menu allows the activity to be tailored for different ages and abilities, by changing the following parameters:

Sound:

On or Off

Language:

English or Spanish

Level of Difficulty:

Easy: Sound spoken when item picked up

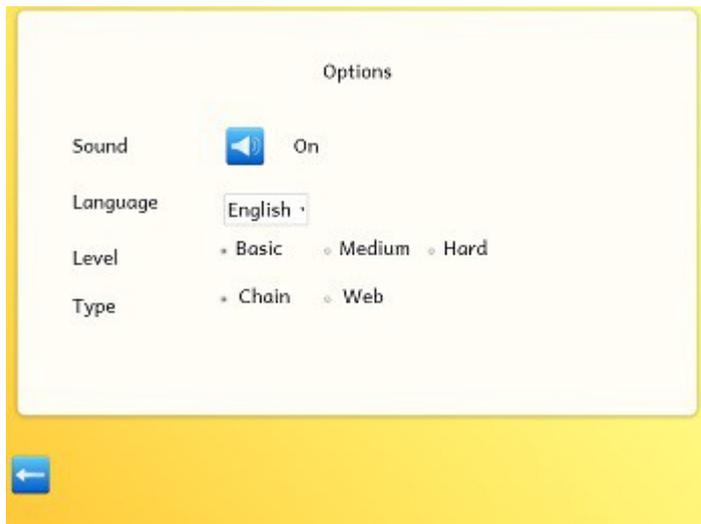
Medium: Sound spoken when item placed

Hard: No words on boxes, can place items in either box at same level

Type:

Chain: Only Food Chains are shown

Web: Both Food Chains and Food Webs are shown, starting with Food Webs



Reporting

There is a reporting page, which allows the number of correct and incorrect answers to be seen. There is an option to allow the reporting to be reset. (The reporting information is stored in the browser memory of the computer).

Learning Outcomes

The food chain is the transfer of energy from one species to another.

Animals need food to survive, and plants need sunlight.

A food chain starts with plants, which needs sunlight to grow. A food web consists of a number of connected food chains.

To know the words: predator, prey, consumer, producer, ecosystem, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore

Be able to name a number of animals in their habitats.

Support resources

Tutorial (in software)

A food chain can be thought of in terms of energy: Every living plant and animal must have energy to survive and grow.

- Plants create energy from sunlight, water and nutrients in the soil (and are called producers as they produce energy).

- Animals rely on plants as well as other animals for their energy, in the form of food (and are called consumers as they consume energy).

A food chain shows how each living thing gets food, and how energy is passed from creature to creature. Food chains begin with plant-life, and end with animal-life. Some animals eat plants (which are called herbivores) and some animals eat other animals (carnivores). Some animals eat both plants and other animals (omnivores).

One example of a food chain might start with grass, which are eaten by mice. The mice are eaten by snakes, and then finally the snakes are eaten by hawks.

A predators is an animal that feeds on another animal - which is called the prey.

An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals in a particular area that depend on each other

If one part of a food chain alters, the whole food chain is affected. For example, in a woodland ecosystem, if there is a drought and less grass, it would affect mice, owls and many other animals.

Ideas for work away from the computer

Children could be asked where their food come from, and to think about the steps in those food chains.

Students can draw their own food chains (eg as a poster), naming each animal and plant. They can share this with others, and also add labels to the producers and consumers; and also to herbivores and omnivores.

Children can discuss what happens if a food chain is broken, or if it is affected by adverse weather (eg droughts, floods or wildfire) or pollution, or animals at the top of the food chain disappearing. This can lead onto work about endangered specices.

The Food Chains activity has five different ecosystems. What other ecosystems might children know?

Weblinks

DK Find Out guide to food webs:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/food-chains/>

Bitesize Food chain challenges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zbnnb9q>

Videos

From the NFU: Students from St Barnabas Primary explain the food chain of the day's school dinner.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFWfadPFOBA>

Links to Curricula

England - Science National Curriculum

Living things & Habitats

Year 1

Using the idea of a simple food chain

Animals inc Humans Year 4 Construct food chains (producers, predators and prey)

Scotland – Science

Biodiversity & Interdependence First SCN 1-02a

Wales

Interdependence of organisms KS2 Representation of interdependence of living organisms in the food chain

Northern Ireland
The World Around Us

Interdependence Foundation Stage How do living things survive?

Interdependence KS1 How plants and animals rely on each other in the natural world

NGSS

K-ESS3-1 Use a model to represent the needs of different plants or animals

Australia
Sequence of Achievement

Year 4 Students will be able to describe relationships that assist the survival of living things

Year 4 ACSSU073 Living things depend on each other and the environment