

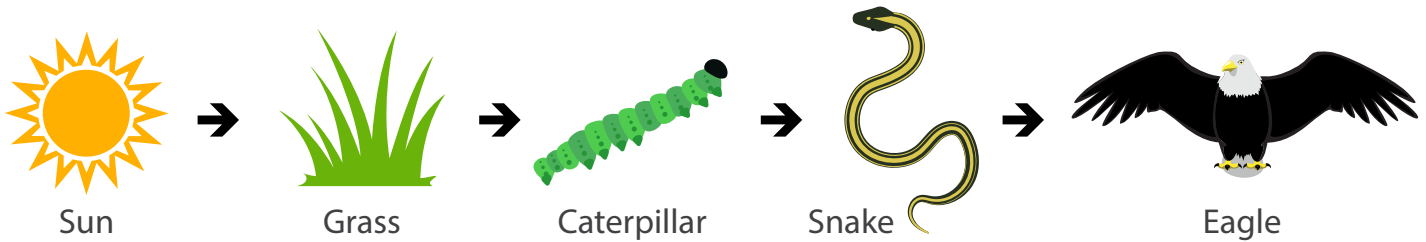


Weaving a Food Web

Introduction

All living things — plants and animals — need energy to live. Spring flowers need energy to grow and bloom. Birds need energy to move their wings for flight. People need energy for all kinds of things, from thinking to laughing to playing soccer to sleeping.

All living things get their energy from food. Green plants use energy from the sun to make their food. Animals get their energy by eating plants or other animals. The sun is at the beginning of every food chain. Here's a simple food chain:



A food web is more complex than a food chain. It is made of many interconnected food chains within a community.

In this activity, kids will be creating an active food web with a ball of yarn and their bodies!

Supplies

- Photocopy of the plant and animal cards (**AFTER PAGE 4**), cut along dotted lines
- Ball of yarn
- Tape or safety pins to attach cards to kids' clothing





Start with a Book: River Rangers

Weaving a Food Web

Get kids thinking ...

START BY ASKING A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS: What happens to a houseplant if it doesn't get enough sun? Where do you get your energy? Let's say you are eating ice cream — how would you describe the food chain? Where does it start and what's in the chain before the ice cream ends up in your mouth? What happens to your "energy level" if you are out hiking or playing all day and you miss lunch?

Let's get started!

Photocopy the plant and animal sheets (**AFTER PAGE 4**) and cut along the dotted lines. Have the kids choose one card each and tape or pin it to the front of their shirts. (Be sure that someone is the "sun.") Form a circle, with the sun standing at the center. Have every child introduce themselves as the plant or animal they represent. **ASK THE KIDS:**

- Who in the circle would I give my energy to? (**WHO MIGHT EAT ME?**)
- Who in the circle could give me energy? (**WHOM COULD I EAT?**)

Explain that the ball of yarn represents energy from the sun. Ask the sun to hold onto the loose end of yarn and toss (or walk) the ball of yarn to someone who can use that energy (a green plant). When the kid representing the green plant has the ball of yarn, they toss the yarn to someone next in the food chain. Keep going until the yarn reaches the animal at the top of that food chain (a carnivore — an animal that eats other animals). You've completed one food chain!

Return the yarn to the sun and start a new chain, and continue making food chains until every kid is holding at least one piece of yarn. **ASK THE KIDS:**

- Have we made food chains? (Yes, many!)
- What do all of our food chains together look like? (A food web)
- Who is holding the most pieces of yarn and why? (The sun, because every food chain starts with the sun)
- What else is part of many food chains (Green plants)





Start with a Book: River Rangers
Weaving a Food Web

More activities

FOOD CHAIN NATURAL LINKS

themailbox.com/magazines/science-idea-food-chain/natural-links

FOOD CHAIN STACKING CUPS

rovingfiddlehead.com/kidlit/flannel-friday-food-chain-stacking-cups/

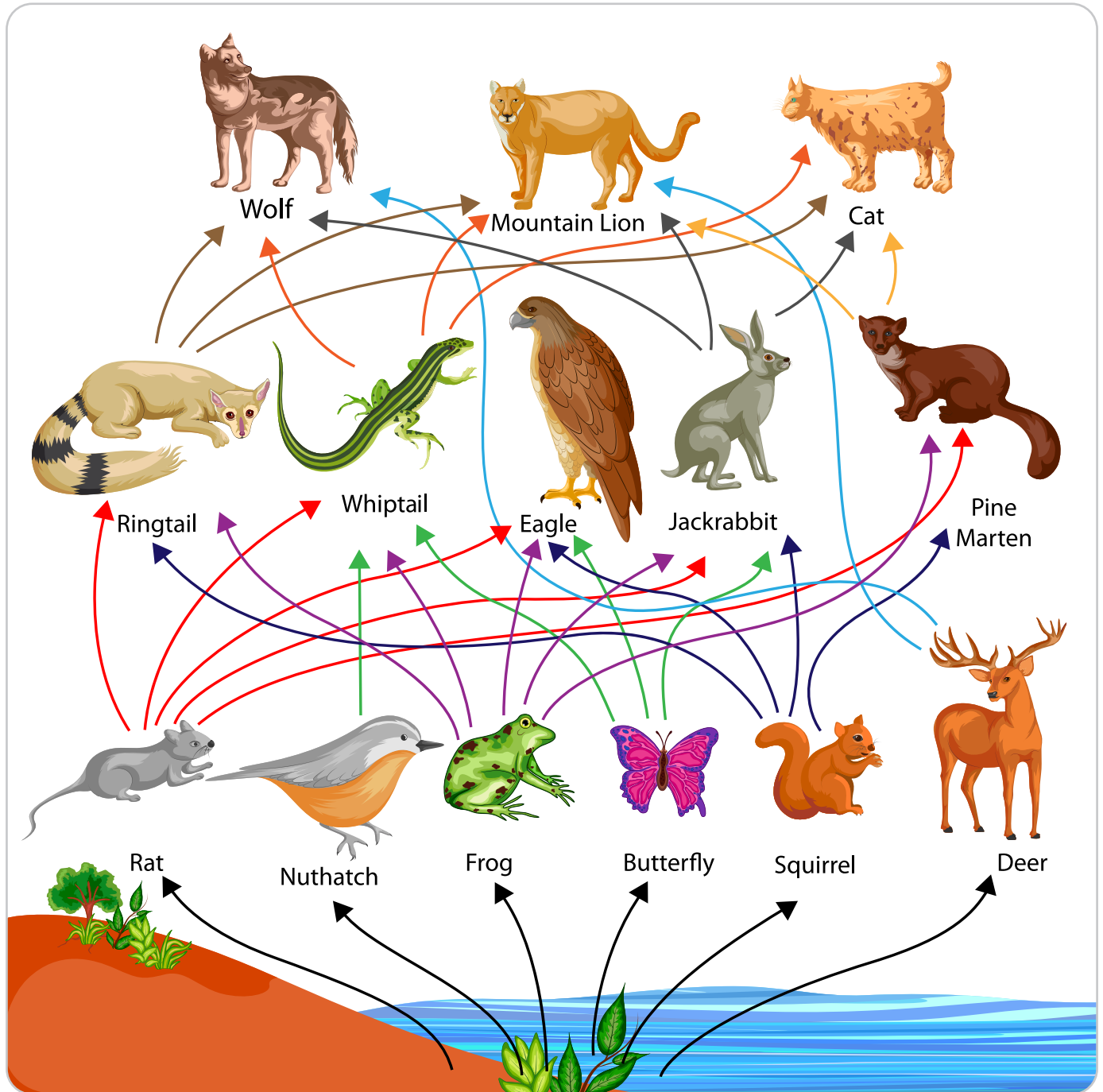




Start with a Book: River Rangers

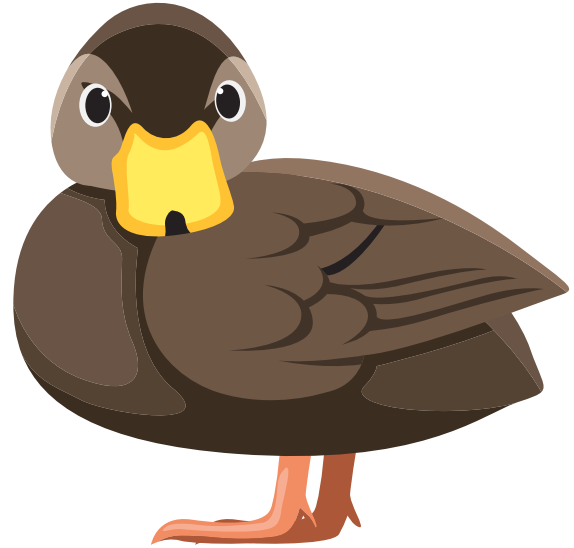
Weaving a Food Web

Food Web





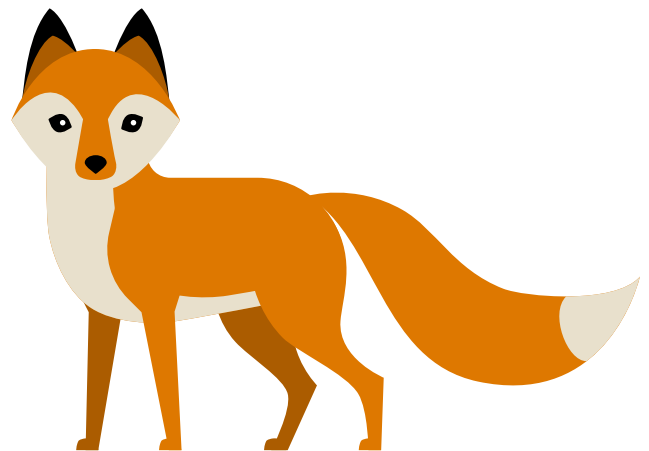
Human



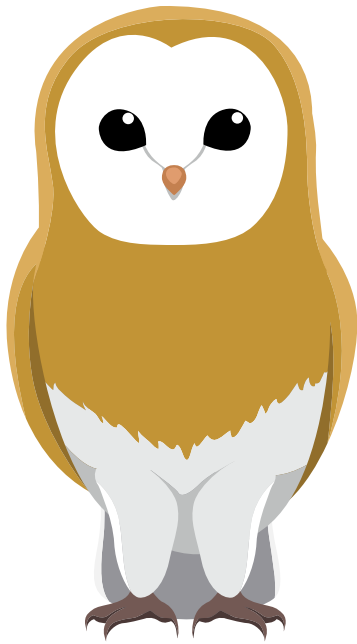
Duck



Dandelion



Fox



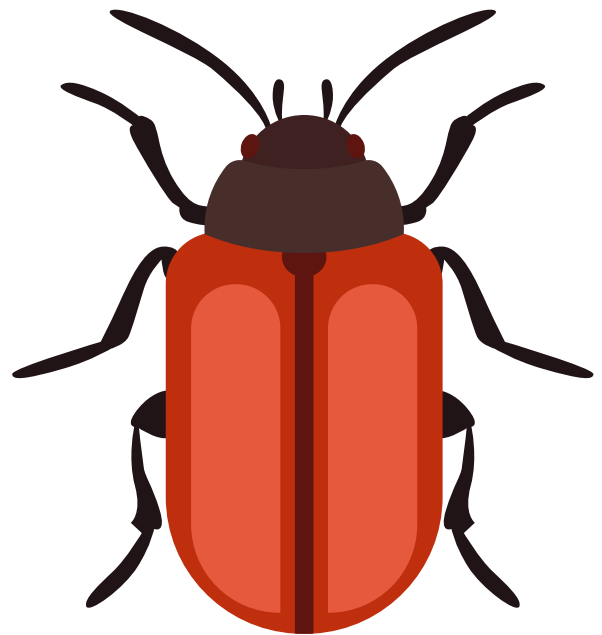
Owl



Bobcat



Cattail



Beetle



Mouse



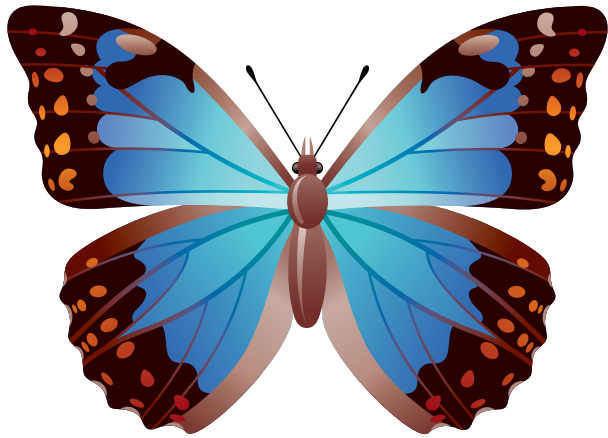
Sunflower



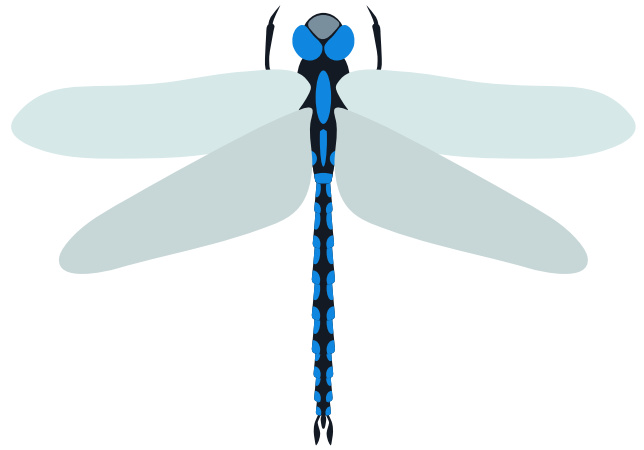
Robin



Blue Jay



Butterfly



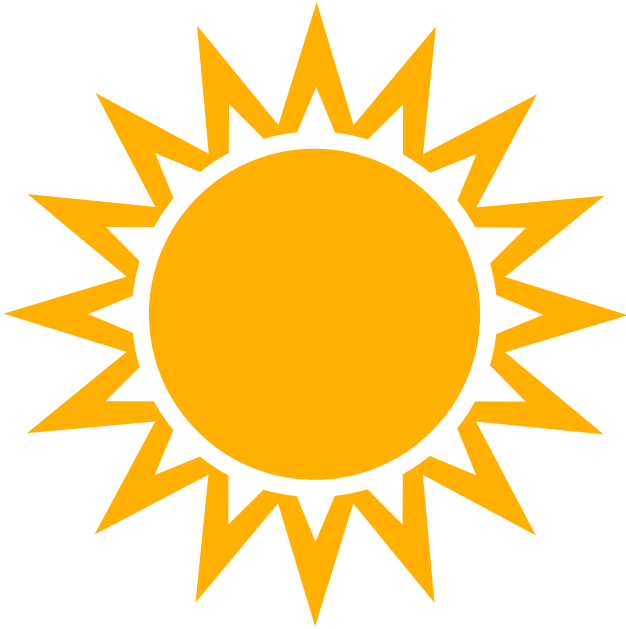
Dragonfly



Wildflowers



Coyote



Sun



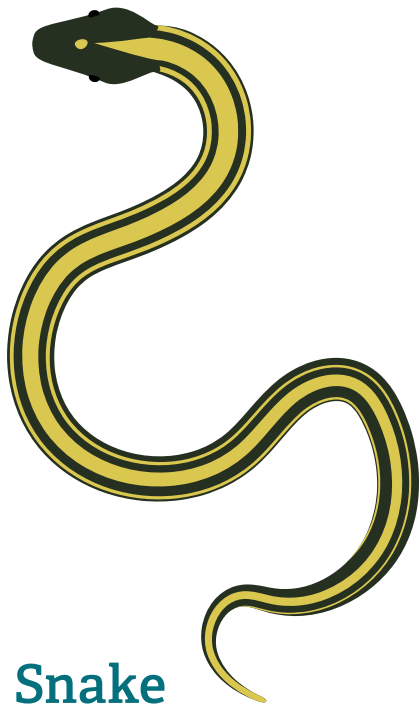
Grass



Rabbit



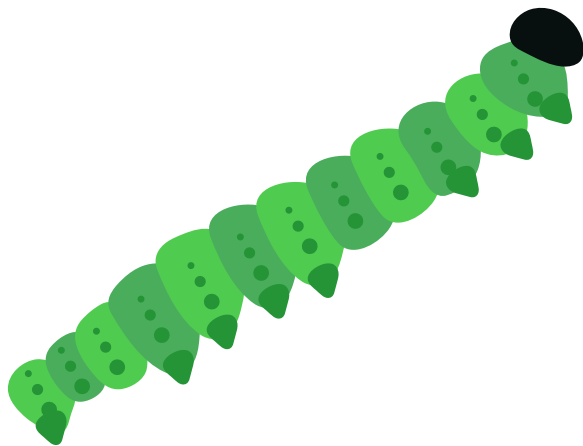
Spider



Snake



Frog



Caterpillar



Hawk