

Food Chains - 1.75hr

Energy from the sun, channeled through plants and on through animals via a food chain, is the topic of this program. Students take on the role of "food chain detectives" to find sightings and signs of plant and animal interactions. Sorting their sightings into links of a chain, each student draws a picture of one "link." Then they form their links into 3-4 link chains for a presentation to the rest of the class. A key summary point is the importance of each link to the well-being of others in the chain.

Before you go

Inform students that they will be visiting Carpenter Nature Center to learn about the flow of energy in nature and to dress appropriately for the weather because a majority of the time will be spent outside.

While you are here

- 0:00-0:30 Introduction—learning what a food chain is and how it relates to nature
- 0:30-1:05 Field activity—in groups students will search for clues of food chains, and create their own
- 1:05-1:20 Create food chain presentations
- 1:20-1:45 Present food chains and discuss how humans are part of the food chain

After you leave

Look for evidence of food chains in outdoor spaces around school.

Minnesota Standards

Carpenter Nature Center supplements standards by participating in benchmark activities. Listed below are benchmarks that students will participate in but not necessarily master.

Second Grade:

Third Grade:

Code	Benchmark
2.1.1.2.1	Raise questions about the natural world and see answers by making careful observations, noting what happens when you interact with an object and sharing the answers with others
2.4.1.1.1	Describe and sort plants into many groups in many ways according to physical characteristics and behaviors
2.4.2.1.1	Recognize that plants need space, water, nutrients, and air, and that they fulfill these needs in different ways

Code	Benchmark
3.1.1.2.4	Construct reasonable explanations based on evidence collected from observations or experiments
3.4.1.1.2	Identify common groups of animals using observable physical characteristics, structures, and behaviors



Minnesota Campus

12805 St. Croix Trail
Hastings, MN 55033
Telephone: (651) 437-4359
www.carpenternaturecenter.org