

Hierarchies Happen

Discuss the similarities between cultural hierarchies and ecological hierarchies. How is a keystone predator in the food pyramid similar to the Pharaoh in Ancient Egypt's class system?

Have students create Venn diagrams, parallel pyramids or T-charts to consider the differences between natural and social hierarchies. What would happen if a portion was removed from each hierarchy? Would it topple (e.g., if the Pharaoh had no slaves or the food pyramid had no producers)?

Are certain members of a hierarchy truly more important than others or are they all equally important? Have students categorize members of each hierarchy from most important to least important. Have them defend their decisions.

Standards: *Grade 6 History-Social Science 6.2 - 6.7*
Grade 6 Science 5b
Grade 6 ELA Writing 1.3