

CHAIN REACTION

PURPOSE: Children will observe how plants and animals in their backyards form a food chain.

MATERIALS:

Book Topics: food chain, food webs, producers, consumers

Magnifying glass, backyard area

Drawing paper and pencil or crayons



PROCEDURE:

1. Walk into your backyard and observe all the plants and animals that you can see. Use the magnifying glass to observe carefully.
2. Draw all the plants, including grass, weeds, flowers, bushes, and trees you observed. (These are the primary producers because they produce food from air, water, nutrients, and sunlight.)
3. Draw all the “pests,” such as aphids, snails, slugs. (These are the primary consumers since they eat the plants or primary producers.)
4. Draw all the ladybugs, birds, ground beetles, cats, opossums, or raccoons that you have observed in your yard or neighborhood. (These are the secondary consumers because they eat the primary consumers.)
5. Cut out the pictures of the primary consumers, and glue them above the primary producers. Draw a line to separate this level of the food chain.
6. Cut out the pictures of the primary consumers, and glue them above the primary producers. Draw a line to separate this level of the food chain.
7. Cut out the pictures of the secondary consumers, and glue them above the primary consumers.
8. Connect one item from the bottom layer to an item in the second layer and continue until you reach the top. This is an example of a food chain.

HOW IT WORKS: Different habitats have different food chains. The backyard food chain might include weeds at the first level, insects at the second level, and birds at the third level. A food chain represents the transfer of energy from the primary producers to the primary consumers and up to the secondary consumers. People are at the top of the food chain. For example, grass is eaten by a cow and a cow is eaten by people.



WRITING PROMPT

You have learned about a food chain.

Think about your favorite wild animal

Discuss with your family how your animal fits into the food chain and write a paragraph about it. Include all the plants and animals which make up this food chain.

Parent Signature: _____

**FAMILY SCIENCE PROJECT**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Hypothesis (What do you think will happen?)

Date/Observation:

Conclusion: (What you learned or discovered):

*(*You may continue your observation on another sheet. You may want to create a graph to record your data.)*

For the reading portion of Family Science, you may choose to read a book or an article, **OR** you may use the Internet in order to find some background information concerning this Family Science Project. If you read a book or an article, please include the complete title and author. If instead you looked up the information on the Internet, please include the complete website.

We read the following book, **OR** researched the information on the Internet:

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

Complete Website: _____

Writing Prompt (minimum 5 sentences)
