

British Dragonfly Society Education



Dragonfly Food Chain Activity

Curriculum Links

Age: 6–9 years

England: KS1: •Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food. **KS2:** •Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Wales: KS2: •Pupils should use and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding by investigating how animals and plants are independent yet rely on each other for survival.

Scotland: •By exploring interactions and energy flow between plants and animals (including humans) learners develop their understanding of how species depend on one another and on the environment for survival.

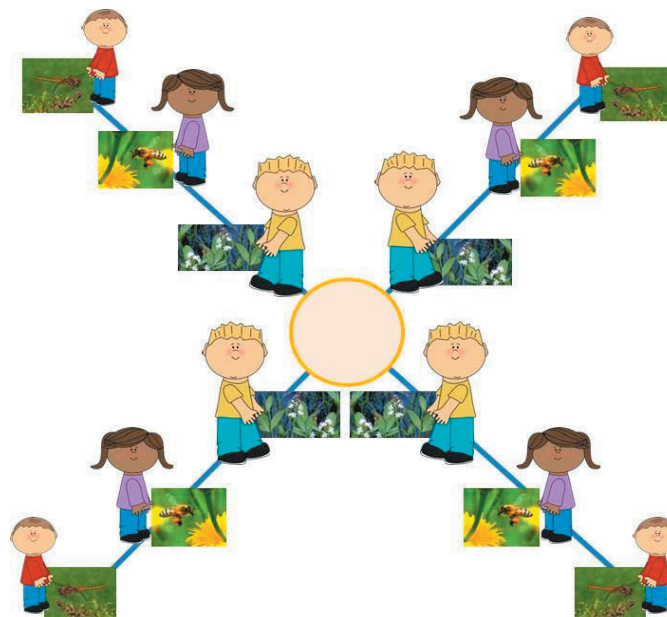
Activity

Use an object to create a central point. Divide the children into teams. Ideally, each team should contain at least four children. Provide each team with a set of food chain cards and a length of string. Task each team to place the string coming out from the central point. Along the string the team must place the cards in the order they think the food chain should go, with the thing that is eaten first nearest the central point. This can be carried out as a race.

Afterwards, each team should explain to the others why they think their cards should be in the order they placed them. Discuss the order of the food chains with the children and correct if necessary. Ask what all the pictures on the cards nearest the centre have in common (i.e. they are plants). Ask what pictures further along the chain have in common, introducing terms such as herbivore, carnivore, predator and prey. Ask the question, "Animals eat other plants or animals to get energy, how do plants get their energy?". Discuss the fact that plants are unique because they make their own food using the sun's energy and that the central object therefore represents the sun.

Now discuss what would happen if certain plants or animals were removed from the food chain. To demonstrate this, you can remove children from each food chain. Discuss with the children what the effect on other food chains would be if these animals needed to look for other sources of food.

Activity cards provided.



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