

# Food Web Cheat Sheet

## Objective:

- To identify the characteristics of a food chain/web.
- To understand the roles that each animal has in an ecosystem.
- To learn about ecosystems.

## Materials:

- Stuffed animals
- Animal Eats/Eaten by Cards
- String
- Animal picture cards
- Easel
- Small white board
- Masking tape

## Engagement:

1. Introduce yourself and the volunteers.
2. Introduce today's program.
3. Ask, "What does the word 'food web' mean to you?"
4. Let's go over a few words and their definitions.

## Definitions:

Herbivore: An animal that eats plants.

Omnivore: An animal that eats by plants and meat.

Carnivore: An animal that eats meat.

Prey: An animal taken by a predator as food.

Predator: An animal that lives by consuming other animals.

Food Chain: Shows how plants and animals depend on each other for food.

Food web: Several food chains interacting with each other in an ecosystem.

Ecosystem: Includes all living and nonliving things in an environment.

As you go over the definition for each word give an example to the visitors. Then ask can anyone else give me an example of this definition?

Once you are finished going over the definition of the words, start the next activity.

**Activity 1:**

Ask for visitors to assist you in making a food chain with the following cards:

1. Simple: Sun, plant, squirrel
2. Thinking: Sun, plant, insect, frog, and raccoon
3. Harder: Sun, plant, insect, fish, snake, bird
4. Challenging: sun, plant, frog, skunks, fox, large bird

After completing a food chain, ask the visitors which things were predators and preys. Then ask them to name which animals were herbivores, omnivores and carnivores.

**Activity 2:**

Now that we know how to make a food chain, let's see if we can make a food web.

Remember, a food web is several food chains put together to make a food web.

1. Hand out the paper cards or stuffed animals (sun, plants, and animals) to each person.
2. Now ask the visitors – who can tell me where the food web will start?
3. Okay, since we know that the food web starts with the sun, I would like the sun to hold the end of the string.
4. Who can tell me what comes after the sun? Plants, very good.
5. Can everyone see how the string works? The string is what will tie the food web together.
6. Now that everyone is holding the string, what kind of pattern did we make? What does this look like to you? A web, very good.

