

Ball of String

Rationale

This activity has been around for a long time. However, its weakness is in the fact that it is really not a food web activity, but rather a set of food chains which does not really show the flow of energy between many different organisms. This activity will help students to see the multidimensional aspect of food webs.

MI GLCE's

- L.EC.04.11 Identify organisms as part of a food chain or food web.
- L.EC.04.21 Explain how environmental changes can produce a change in the food web.
- S.RS.04.11 Demonstrate similarities and differences of plants and animal requirements and their relationships through various illustrations, performances or activities.

Objectives

1. Students will classify organisms as producers or consumers.
2. Students will construct a variety of food chains based on Great Lakes systems.
3. Students will demonstrate the interrelationships of food chains in the construction of food webs.

Key Concepts

Source of Energy	Producer
Food Chains	Consumer
Food Webs	Decomposer

Materials

Two balls of string – two different colors

Strategies

Engage

Ask students to brainstorm ideas of animals that live in the Great Lakes region. Write ideas on the board.

Explore

Split the class into groups of four or five. Have each group use the animals brainstormed in the engage and develop a food chain with each person of the group as a producer, consumer, or decomposer in the chain. When they think they have a food chain they should call the teacher over to check for its validity.

Have students sit in a circle on the floor. Explain that you are