



Fallen Timbers Backyard Activities

Backyard Food Chains!

Let's explore the food chains right in your backyard! Food chains show the transfer of energy in an ecosystem. Energy is transferred between living things when one eats another. That energy always starts with the Sun. The sun's energy is captured by plants and turned into food (energy) for plant eaters (herbivores). Then, when a meat eater (carnivore) eats the plant eater, the energy is transferred to them!

Let's explore the food chains in your backyard with some outdoor art!

You will need:

Dice



& Sidewalk Chalk



On your driveway or sidewalk, you will be drawing food chains that we might find in our backyards or green space.

- Roll the dice to receive an animal to start with from the chart below.
- Start your food chain by drawing that animal in chalk on the ground outside.
- Complete your food chain by drawing pictures of other plants or animals to fill in the remaining roles.
- Don't forget the SUN and the arrows to show energy flow!
- Example: SUN ---> GRASS (plant) ---> RABBIT (plant eater) ---> OWL (meat eater)
- Roll the dice again and make another food chain. Try to think of animals that might be living in your yard, what they eat, and who might eat them!!
- If you can't play outside or don't have chalk, you can play inside and fill in the chart below with your drawings.

Food Chain Drawing Game:

| Dice Number | Animal | Dice Number | Animal | Dice Number | Animal |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | Fox | 5 | Mouse | 9 | Owl |
| 2 | Toad/Frog | 6 | Snake | 10 | Raccoon |
| 3 | Robin (song bird) | 7 | Squirrel | 11 | Turkey |
| 4 | Hawk | 8 | Rabbit | 12 | Skunk |

