

Gar, Gar, Gator

Students will learn about two-part food chains.

Objectives:

Students will be able to define what a simple food chain is and describe at least 3 Everglades food chains.

Materials:

Food chain pictures from this activity and the alphabet cards included in this guide.

Methods:

Play as you would "Duck, Duck, Goose".

Subjects:

Science, P. E.

Duration:

45 minutes

Location:

Outdoors, classroom, gym, or cafeteria.

Related Activities:

Nature Hunt, Circle Round and Round, Everglades ABC's, Food Chain Mobile

Florida Sunshine State Standards:

SC.G.1.1.2



**alligator
(gator)**



**gar fish
(gar)**



Background

A food chain is a sequence of organisms, in which each is food for higher and more complex organisms. Simple food chains would have two connections, either between plants and an animal species or between two different animals. (Examples include: sawgrass - deer, gar fish - gators, raccoons - bobcats.)

Procedure

1. Copy the pictures of food chains from this activity (there are 5: one on this page and four on a following page). Cut them out. (Have 10 students, working in pairs, color the pictures.)
2. Have all your students sit in a circle. Show them the food chain picture of the alligator and the gar fish. Define and discuss what a food chain is.
3. Chose a student to be "it" - a gar fish. Play the game as you would "Duck, Duck, Goose". The "gar fish" student walks around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each classmate on the head and saying either gar or gator. Initially the student will say "gar, gar, gar", etc., until he finally says "gator", and then takes off running. The "gator" student immediately chases the "gar" student who is running around the circle to try and reach the place the "gator" student has vacated, before he is tagged. If the "gator" is unable to tag the "gar", then the "gator" student is "it". This student then becomes a gar and walks around the outside of the circle tapping and saying "gar, gar ..."
4. If the gator tags the gar fish, then the gar fish sits down inside the circle, as he has been eaten. The gator resumes playing, as a new gar fish. Complete three or four rounds of students playing "Gar, Gar, Gator".

5. Move to the next food chain by having all students return to the outside circle. Show them another food chain example (i.e. sawgrass and deer). Have students play three or four rounds using this food chain. Continue the activity until every student has had a chance to be "it". Other food chains pictured in this activity are: a mosquito and a dragonfly, a snake and a hawk, and a raccoon and a bobcat.

Extension

Have students describe some Everglades food chains. Then spread out the alphabet cards and have students select two pictures which will complete a food chain. See if they can create a three-part food chain and then a four-part one. Ask students what would happen to the food chain if an animal or plant in a part of that food chain became extinct?

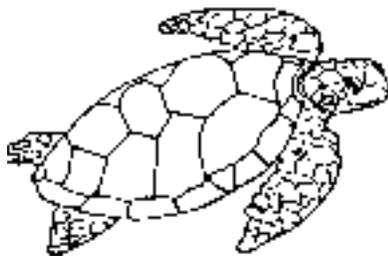
Food Chain Examples

Three-part food chains
sawgrass - deer - bobcat
bladderwort - turtle - gator

Four-part food chains
mosquito - frog - raccoon - gator
bladderwort - fish - heron - gator

**Create
your
own!**

Many animals such as loggerhead sea turtles and alligators are opportunistic feeders. They eat a variety of foods, creating a more complex food chain. When food chains overlap they form a food web.



loggerhead sea turtle
(threatened species)

Important Words

food chain
alligator
gar fish
deer
sawgrass
dragonfly
mosquito
hawk
snake
bobcat
raccoon
extinct



jellyfish



blue crab

Food Chain Pictures

deer



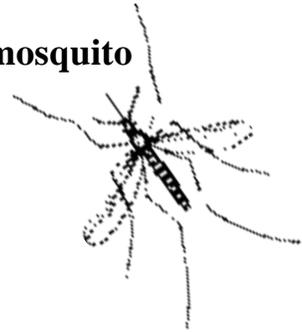
sawgrass
(grass)



dragonfly



mosquito



hawk



snake



bobcat



raccoon

