Rainforest Habitat

5TH GRADE • 6TH GRADE
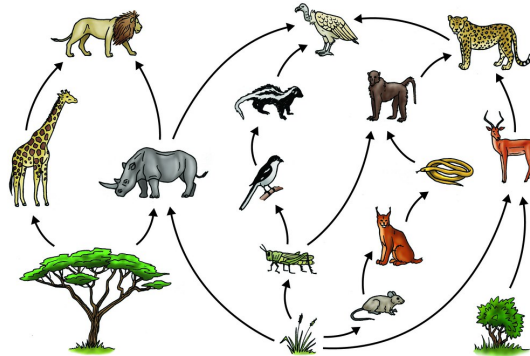
SUMMER LESSONS

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Extended Learning Partnership

Rainforest: What is a Habitat?

In the video, you saw the amazing diverse rainforest ecosystem. This ecosystem is very special because it is home to millions of different species. With all of these animals, the rainforest has a very large food web. A food web is made up of food chains. A food chain describes how organisms depend on one another for their food. Here is what a small food chain would look like: Grass → Rabbit → Fox. The rabbit gets its energy from the grass, and the fox gets its energy from the rabbit. This represents the flow of energy. Now, does a rabbit only eat grass? Does a fox only eat rabbit? No, these animals eat multiple things. To show how all the organisms interact together we use a food web. Here is an example of a food web.

As you can see, the giraffe, rhino, grasshopper, mouse and gazelle all eat grass. Which animals eat the grasshopper? Which animals do the vulture eat? (Remember: It is important to note the direction of the arrow is how the energy is moving in the food web).

Activity:

◦ Watch the video again and see if you can draw, or write, your own food chain and food web. Don't forget to pay attention to how you draw your arrows!

Writing prompt:

◦ Think about your food chain or food web you have created. What would happen to the ecosystem if you took out one of your animals?

◦ Think about these questions as you write:

  ◦ Which animals will be affected by you taking out an organism?

  ◦ Will the animals be able to survive with the change?

  ◦ How could environmental factors cause an animal to become extinct?

Math:

◦ There were 4,935 people who visited the zoo on Saturday. Of the 4,945 people, 2,867 were children. If the price for admission is $14.95 for adults and $8.95 for children, how much money did the zoo make on Saturday?

◦ If a tiger ate 5/8 of its prey, what percentage of the animal did the tiger eat?

Check for Understanding:

◦ Create a simple food chain using the following animals: otter, kelp, shark, fish and sea lion.

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