

Food Chain Dash



Objective

Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.



Equipment

- Bibs / sashes enough for one per child.
- Cones
- Bean bags enough for 2/3 of the group.
- Clip board and Food Chain Record Activity Sheet.



Preparation

- Set out a square in the playground, field or sports hall, with room for all children to move around safely at different speeds. At one end of the square, scatter a large number of bean bags across the line and mark the opposite end with a line of a single coloured cones. The bean bags represent vegetation / grass and the line of coloured cones represent a safe shelter.
- Divide the children into two different sized groups; one large (**Rabbit** group); and one small (**Fox** group) e.g. for a class of 30 children: large group (25 Children); small group (5 Children).
- Tell each group their group name i.e. **Rabbits** and **Foxes**. Give all the children in the **Rabbit** group a bib or sash and ask them to tuck it into their waistbands, with at least ½ of the bib / sash visible.



Instructions

- Provide the group with the basic rules of the game. **Rabbits** must start at the safe shelter line, make their way to the other side, collect one piece of vegetation / grass (one bean bag) and bring it back to their shelter / home. **Foxes** must spread out around the square and try to catch and eat the **Rabbits** by taking their bib from their waist. **Foxes** must not chase **Rabbits** past the end lines of the squares e.g. when collecting food or in a safe shelter. If a **Rabbit** is caught, they must go and sit on the side by the teacher, a safe distance away from the activity area.
- The first game will finish when all **Rabbits** have returned to their safe shelter or have been caught. Have the two groups count their food i.e. **Rabbits** count their bean bags and **Foxes** count their bibs. For every two bean bags collected, a **Rabbit** that has previously been caught returns to the **Rabbit** group. For every bib / sash collected, a **Rabbit** that has previously been caught turns into a fox.
- Return all bean bags back to their position and repeat the game. The activity should include around 4 / 5 games.



Other information

- Explain to the children that this activity helps them to learn about how different animals and plants gain energy and nutrients from food and how it is all linked together in a chain that can include animals that are predators and animals that are prey.
- As an extension to this activity, children can use their Food Chain Record Activity Sheet to record the number of children in each group at the end of each game and observe how this changes throughout the activity.

