

World Thinking Day 2023 Leader Activities

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Without Balance, Without Peace

From WAGGGS Challenge Pack Activity 1B Page 26

This activity helps us to recognise the need for balance in an ecosystem, through recognising the importance of all organisms. We also learn about the concept of a food web.



Resources needed

- A Ball of wool or string
- Pieces of paper -or sticky notes - large enough for the words to be read at a distance.
- Sticky tape and scissors if using paper.
- Pens

Vocabulary for Animal types

Insectivore



This is an animal that feeds on insects, worms, and other invertebrates.

Examples: hedgehogs, lots of different birds, or lizards.

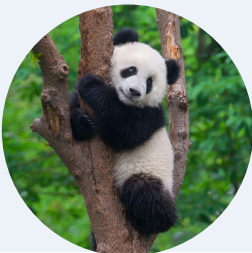
This is an animal that feeds on other animals.

Examples: lions, eagles, spiders, crocodiles, or wolves.

Carnivore



Herbivore



This is an animal that feeds on plants.

Examples: pandas, elephants, rabbits, koalas, or deer.

This is an animal that feeds on both plants and other animals.

Examples: bears, dogs, pigs, jackals, rats, chipmunks, and monkeys.

Omnivore

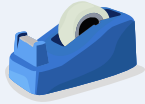


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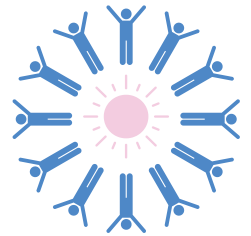
Preparation



Write names of the following organisms on your paper, you will need a plant, an insect, an insectivore, an herbivore, a carnivore, an omnivore, a farmer and the sun. Will you choose plants and animals local to your part of Wales or will you choose a country abroad and research the plants and wildlife that live there? The names of the organism have to be large enough for everyone to read them. Now attach the name to yourself using tape if required. If you are a smaller unit/group you may have to improvise -for example have the 'sun' in the middle of your circle using a chair etc taping the first strand to the chair?

The activity

Your group represents an ecosystem where you will explore the ways in which the organisms are related to each other.



1 Stand in a large circle with the person representing the sun in the centre. The "sun" will start with the ball of wool and hold onto the end.

2 The sun will throw the ball of wool to another organism and state how they are connected to each other in the ecosystem. For example, the sun may throw the wool to the plant because the sun helps the plant to grow

3 The new person will hold a piece of the wool and throw the ball to another person, while stating how they are also connected.

4 Continue to throw the wool to others around the circle until you have created a web in the centre. Make sure to hold onto a piece of the wool before you throw the ball to someone new. Once everyone is interconnected, hold everyone's strands of wool to create a tight connection

5 Pluck one of the strands of wool, can you notice the vibrations across the web. Note that if even one of these connections were to be dropped it would disturb the whole web. Think of reasons how different parts of your ecosystem might be disrupted.

5 Discuss and decide what might be most vulnerable to changes and, with scissors, cut this part of the web.

With this loose connection, what happens next?

Discussion

Reflect on what happened...



- What happened when an organism is removed from the ecosystem?
- Have you observed any other scenarios in real life when the ecosystem was out of balance?
- How can a diverse and thriving ecosystem support a peaceful planet?



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Make a pledge

To make a positive change, why not make a pledge to the World on World Thinking Day 2023.

Think about things that will improve the World we live in. This can be something to improve the environment, our community or our seas.

Alternatively you can make a pledge that will contribute to a peaceful world for humans and animals. Record sheets can be found on page 10-11.



Some ideas

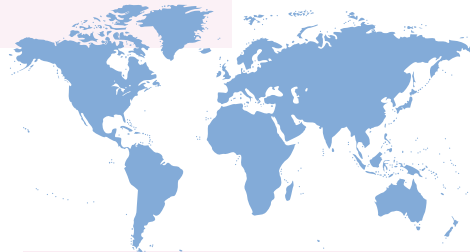
Our World

Try to reduce plastic waste by using a reusable metal bottle.

Save fuel by cycling or walking when you can.

Take part in a local beach clean or litter pick with your unit.

Support animals that may perish in the winter months.



Peace in our world

Try to do something kind for someone every day.

Raise money for a country in need.

Find out about guiding in a country where there is conflict.



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Cymru International Team



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