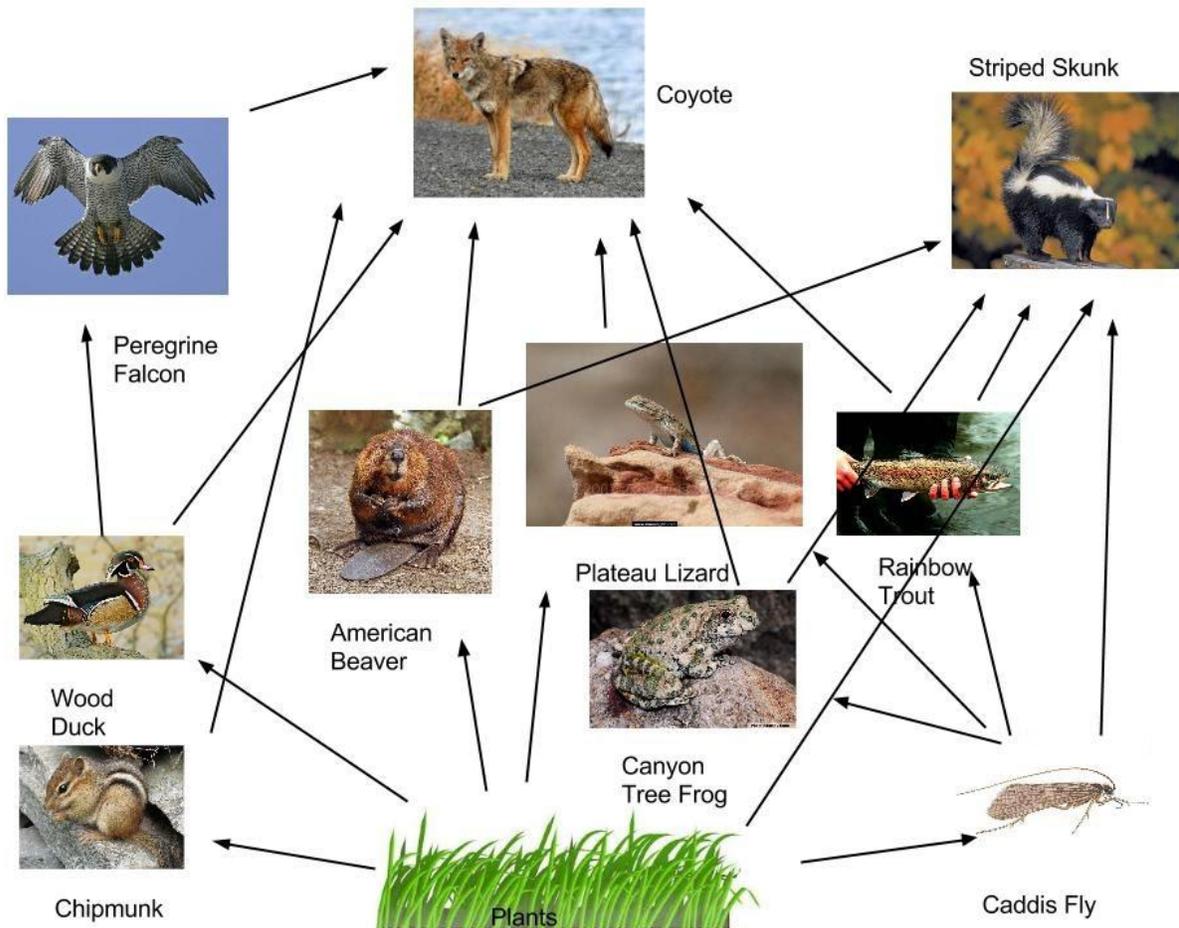


Create a Food Web



Source: [Zion National Park Project](#)

Objectives

- Understand that organisms are interconnected and rely on each other for survival
- Identify an organism as a producer, consumer, or decomposer
- Explain how energy flows through the food web

Materials

- Pictures of organisms from trail camera or other sources
- Food web video
- PowerPoint or any source you prefer to create the food web on

Procedure

1. Have students list organisms they've seen and think about how they interact with one another.

2. Play a video explaining what a food web/chain is (examples: [PBS](#), [BrainPOP](#)). Showing a simple example of a food web can also be helpful.
3. Explain key terms that students may need to know (see [Vocabulary](#) below).
4. Show students pictures of a couple of organisms. You may want to start with the sun and a common plant in the area.
5. Once students have identified the organisms and discussed their relationships, create a slide on PowerPoint (or whichever platform you prefer) and paste the images. Show students how arrows are drawn and explain what they signify.
6. As new organisms show up on the trail camera, continue adding to the food web. This can be a weekly routine. For example, you could have a food web lesson every Friday where the new organisms are introduced and discussed.
7. OPTIONAL: include a picture of a person and have students think about the role of humans in the ecosystem.

Vocabulary

- Food web
- Ecosystem
- Carnivore
- Omnivore
- Herbivore
- Scavenger
- Producer
- Consumer (primary, secondary, tertiary)

Standards

5-LS2-1. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

LS2.A. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants for food and other animals eat the animals that eat plants. Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms (both plants or plants parts and animals) and therefore operate as “decomposers.” Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem.

LS2.B. Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems: Matter cycles between the air and soil and among plants, animals, and microbes as these organisms live and die. Organisms obtain gases, and water, from the environment, and release waste matter (gas, liquid, or solid) back into the environment.

Example 1

