

A Simple Food Chain · Conversation & classroom guide

Learning with a grown-up · Ages 4–8 · Flexible participation

How do these food arrows connect the living things?

Learning aim: Trace the pictured food-to-eater arrows and explain one connection.

A five-minute conversation

Begin at the grass and look for the sunlight connection. Grass uses sunlight to make its food. Then trace the food arrows: rabbits eat grass, and foxes can eat rabbits. Each food arrow points from the food toward the eater, following energy through the chain. Let your child guide the route with a finger or words while you read. This is one example of how living things are connected, rather than a list of everything each animal eats.

Remember: We noticed animals within their surroundings. They also need food; how can a picture show who eats what?

Start here: Find the grass and follow its arrow to the rabbit.

Explore further: Explain why this single chain does not mean a fox eats only rabbits.

What helps the grass make its food?

Answer cue: Sunlight. Follow the sunlight connection down to the grass; the grass does not eat the Sun.

Why does the food arrow point from grass to rabbit?

Answer cue: The rabbit eats grass. Food arrows point from food to eater, following energy.

Does the poster mean that foxes eat only rabbits?

Answer cue: No. Rabbits are one example of a fox's food. The poster tells us that animals can eat other foods, too.

Keep the idea clear

Some children find animal feeding relationships surprising. Explain calmly that wild animals need food, without adding a chase or injury story. These are ordinary unnamed animals used as examples; Gina and Ollie are the observers.

Try: Tell the arrow story

Materials: The poster and an adult; optional paper and drawing materials. Describing or pointing is enough.

1. Name or describe grass, rabbit and fox in the poster.
2. Draw or gesture an arrow from grass to rabbit and from rabbit to fox.
3. Explain each arrow as food to eater; add sunlight as what helps grass make food.

What this can show: The arrows follow energy from food to eater. The grass does not eat the Sun, and this is only one possible feeding path.

Return to it: Connect the chain to a habitat. What else does an animal need besides the food shown here?

A Simple Food Chain · In the classroom

A 20-minute classroom lesson

Prepare: Read the poster, answer cues and misconception note. Prepare only the materials named in the activity; keep a picture-only or described option available.

Words to explore

food chain — One path connecting living things through feeding.

energy — What living things need to grow and do things.

3 min · Reconnect and wonder: How do these food arrows connect the living things? Invite an initial idea; record it without marking it right or wrong.

4 min · Look together: Find the grass and follow its arrow to the rabbit. Introduce food chain using the poster.

8 min · Investigate or represent: Use “Tell the arrow story.” Let pairs take turns noticing and recording, with adult help and the activity’s stated boundaries.

5 min · Explain and return: Ask the core check: How do these food arrows connect the living things? Accept pointing, words, signing or a drawing. If the learner is ready, offer this optional extension: Explain why this single chain does not mean a fox eats only rabbits.

Understanding check: How do these food arrows connect the living things?

Answer guidance: The arrows run from grass to rabbit and rabbit to fox because they point from food to eater. Sunlight helps grass make food. The arrows follow energy from food to eater. The grass does not eat the Sun, and this is only one possible feeding path.

Accept pointing, speech, signing, a drawing or adult dictation. Describe the illustration and use labels/position as well as color. Offer one contrast first, and use the extension when the learner is ready.

A response to keep

My idea or question

What I noticed (date/time if useful)

What I think now / my next question

<https://kiddos.ai/learn/learning-with-gina-and-ollie/simple-food-chain>

Our discovery record

Use words, marks, a drawing or an adult's notes. Keep this page with you; nothing needs to be uploaded.

Date / time (if useful): _____

My question or idea

What I noticed

What I think now

What I want to explore next

Stories to continue together: <https://kiddos.ai/books>

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