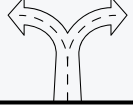


Flow of Energy Menu

Directions: Take a look at the different ways you can explore the **flow of energy** on the choice board. Choose the ONE activity that you think will best help you show what you've learned and that you will enjoy working on!

Ask and Investigate 	Model It! 	Be a Data Detective 
Come up with a question about the flow of energy in food chains or food webs. Plan a simple way to explore your question.	Create a model to illustrate a specific food chain or food web, clearly showing the direction of energy flow between organisms. Explain how energy moves through your model.	Research a specific ecosystem and create a food web based on the organisms you find there. Identify the producers, consumers, and the ultimate source of energy.
Math Connections! 	Explain It! 	Solve a Problem! 
Look for examples of how numbers or measurements are used to describe the flow of energy in ecosystems. Consider what these numbers tell us about energy transfer.	Describe how energy flows through a food chain and a food web. Explain the roles of different trophic levels and why energy is reduced at each level.	Think about a disruption to a food web. How might this impact the flow of energy through the ecosystem?
Tell a Story! 	Create a Visual! 	Be the Teacher! 
Write a short story that follows the journey of energy as it moves through different organisms in a food chain or food web.	Create a visual that clearly illustrates the difference between a food chain and a food web, providing examples of each.	Explain to someone how the sun's energy ends up in an animal that eats another animal. Use a specific food chain as an example.

Energy Flow: Power Up Your Ideas!

Trace the path of energy through ecosystems with these starting points. Remember, you can always come up with your own amazing projects too!

Ask and Investigate 	Model It! 	Be a Data Detective 
1. Where does all the energy in a food web originally come from? 2. Do all food chains start with a plant? Why or why not?	1. Use arrows and pictures to model a food chain in a forest ecosystem. 2. Create a physical model (like a mobile) to show the interconnectedness of organisms in a simple food web.	1. Research a specific animal and identify what it eats and what eats it within its ecosystem. 2. Find examples of food chains in two different ecosystems (e.g., a pond and a grassland). Compare them.
Math Connections! 	Explain It! 	Solve a Problem! 
1. If there are many blades of grass, fewer rabbits, and even fewer foxes in a field, how do these different numbers show that energy is being used up? 2. Think about how much you eat compared to a small plant. Why do there need to be many more plants than animals that eat them in most ecosystems?	1. What is the role of the sun in a food web? 2. Why is there less energy available at the top of a food chain compared to the bottom?	1. What might happen to a food web if a key predator is removed from the ecosystem? 2. How can changes in the environment (like pollution) affect the flow of energy in a food chain?
Tell a Story! 	Create a Visual! 	Be the Teacher! 
1. Write a story about a unit of energy as it travels through different organisms in a food chain. 2. Create a short comic strip that shows how different animals in a food web get their energy.	1. Draw a diagram that clearly shows the difference between a food chain and a food web. 2. Create an infographic that explains the concept of energy transfer between trophic levels.	1. Explain to someone how energy from the sun ends up in a top predator like a lion. 2. Use a simple food chain to demonstrate how energy flows in one direction.