

Pre-Class and Post-Class Activities

Energy Cycles

Note: The following discussions are completely optional and are not required for participation in the Energy Cycle class. This information is provided as ways to build on this class and to be used at your discretion.

Vocab to know:

- Photosynthesis
- Ecosystem
- Herbivore
- Carnivore
- Omnivore
- Decomposer
- Primary Producer
- Primary Consumer
- Secondary Consumer

Pre-Class Discussions:

We will be discussing how energy moves throughout the food chain, focusing on how energy enters an ecosystem from the sun, which plants use to create sugar through photosynthesis. When animals eat the plants, they gain some of the energy from the sugar. This energy is then passed onto the next animal in the food chain. The amount of energy decreases with each level of the food chain, so ecosystems can only support a certain number of consumers.

Post Class Discussions:

We have discussed the energy cycle and created a diagram. Have students share what they have learned/ give examples of animals (or plants) that fit each of the above vocabulary words (Herbivore, Carnivore, etc.)