



Food webs in our forests

Learn about woodland habitats and the wildlife that rely on them for food. Explore the concept of food chains and webs, then build a food web featuring woodland plants and animals.

Use this activity to fulfil the **Visit a wood with your school** challenge.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/green-tree-schools-award/visit-a-wood/

Worth two points on the award.



Curriculum requirements KS3

Relationships in an ecosystem

- The interdependence of organisms in an ecosystem, including food webs.

Learning outcomes

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- identify five plants/trees and five animals that live in British woods
- explain three food chains and one food web in a British wood.

Preparation and resources

The following materials will help you deliver this activity successfully.

Outdoors – in a local woodland, park or your school grounds

- risk assessments
- health and safety equipment
- outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for all weathers
- trays, magnifying glasses, bug pots and identification resources for plants, trees and animals

In the classroom

- AV equipment to show the film 'Wildlife Wednesday: All about trees!'
www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/animal-habitats/woodland
- String to make food webs



Location

Different parts of this activity can be carried out in different places.



On a woodland visit

If possible, go to a local woodland before the lesson to identify trees, plants and animals.



In your school grounds or a local park

Alternatively, go into your school grounds or a local park before or as part of your lesson to identify trees, plants and animals.



In the classroom

All parts of this activity can be done in class.

Starter activity (10 minutes)

Outdoors

Split the students into small groups and ask them to find five plants/trees and five animals. Can they identify them?

In class, watch the Wildlife Trust video: **Wildlife Wednesday: All about trees!**

Ask students to think about the ways woods support food chains. Ask them to feed back to the whole class after the film.



Main activity (40 minutes)

If you are outdoors, ask each group to share the names of the plants, trees and animals that they found. If you are indoors, ask each group to choose five plants/trees and five animals found in woods.

Discuss which animals will eat plants and trees in a food chain.

Ask each group to choose a food chain and act it out for the other groups to guess what they are.

Get the whole class in a circle and use a ball of string to create a food web. Ask students to choose what plant, tree or animal they are.

Starting with a producer, pass the ball of string from pupil to pupil depending on who eats who.

Plenary/evaluation (10 minutes)

Discuss: how can we increase ecosystems for plants, trees and animals in our local area?

Ask students if there are any areas in your school grounds or locally that need more trees.

The Woodland Trust offers free trees to schools. Visit treetoolsforschools.org.uk to find out how to apply for trees to plant in your grounds or local area to help wildlife.

Extension

Challenge students to choose more than five plants, trees and animals to build more complex food chains and webs.