



LEARNING CHALLENGES FROM:

BRIDGE to the BARRENS[®]

547 East Main Street, Riverhead NY, 11901
Phone: (631)369-3300 Email: info@pinebarrens.org

FOOD WEB GAME

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Grade Level:
1-8

Activity Level:
Interactive

Seasonality:
Fall, Winter, Spring,
Summer

Time:
30 Min.

Group Size:
8-10 Children or 1 Class

Habitat:
Classroom

OVERVIEW

Students will create a life sized web with string to show the inter-relationships between the organisms in a Pine Barrens community.

OBJECTIVE

Students will:

1. understand that all living things are important in the balance of nature
2. develop an awareness of the fragility and complexity of nature
3. recognize the necessity of conservation and preservation of our resources

MATERIALS

5 X 7 Index cards
String
Crayons
Hole puncher
Field guides or other resources

PROCEDURE

Punch holes in the index cards (one per student) and tie string in each hole so that it makes a loop big (long) enough to hang around the neck. Have students research a plant or animal in the Pine



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FOOD WEB GAME CONTINUED . . .

Barrens and label an index card with its name and a few facts such as what it eats. Be sure your community includes: the source of energy (sun), producers of food (plants), primary consumers (animals that eat plants directly), and secondary consumers (animals that eat animals). A variety of organisms makes the game more enjoyable and interesting.

Suggested Pine Barrens Organisms:

Eastern Bluebird	Spring Peeper
Lichens	Black Racer
High Bush Blueberry	Spotted Turtle
Pink Lady Slipper	Eastern Chipmunk
Pitch Pine	White Footed Mouse
Scrub Oak	Red Fox
Tiger Beetle	White Tailed Deer
Buck Moth	Screech Owl
Black Capped Chickadee	Red Tailed Hawk
Rufous Sided Towhee	Pitcher Plant
Tiger Salamander	Midges

Once the cards have been made, have the students sit in a circle wearing their cards. Starting with the sun use a piece of string to connect each organism to the one which gets energy from/eats it. The idea is to make a food web by interconnecting all of the organisms.