

Food Chain Detective

Lesson 7.4 · The Predator Hierarchy
Outdoor Mission



Kitimu says...

In the wild, everyone has a place in the food chain — from tiny insects to top predators like lions and leopards. Today you'll build a real food chain using animals from your own area. Who eats who near you? Let's find out, Cub!



WHAT YOU NEED



Garden, park or street



Paper or cardboard



Coloured pencils



Camera (optional)



Your worksheet



Ruler or string



YOUR MISSION

- Meet the levels.** Every food chain has: **plants** (make their own food) → **plant-eaters** (herbivores) → **small hunters** (like spiders and birds) → **top predators** (like cats and hawks). Energy flows up each step.
- Find your plants.** Look around for grass, leaves and seeds — the start of every chain. Note two or three plants growing near you.
- Find the plant-eaters.** Search for creatures that eat those plants: caterpillars, snails, grasshoppers, mice, or a buck. Look for nibbled leaves and droppings as clues.
- Find the hunters.** Who eats the plant-eaters? Spiders in webs, birds hunting insects, a lizard, a cat. Look for webs, feathers, or a bird catching a bug.
- Build your chain.** Draw or lay out a chain with arrows showing who eats who, e.g. **grass → grasshopper → lizard → hawk**. Use real animals YOU found. Can you build a chain with 4 links?
- Crown the top predator.** Which animal in your area has no natural enemies? That's your top predator. Write why nothing hunts it — and what would happen if it disappeared.

RANGER TIP

Arrows in a food chain always point in the direction the energy flows — from the one being eaten TO the one eating it.

BIG IDEA

Remove one link and the whole chain wobbles. Top predators keep everything in balance — that's why protecting lions and leopards protects everything below them.

My food chain (draw arrows: who eats who):



Photograph your food chain and share it in the Junior Rangers WhatsApp group!