

Lake Mead

Environmental Education

National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



Grade 2 - Field Program Outline “Food for Life”



Theme	Plants and animals living in a community are all participants in a complex food chain.
Objectives	Students will recognize one desert herbivore, carnivore and omnivore. Students will compare the different types of food in the food chain. Students will determine what might happen when there is a missing link in a food chain.
Vocabulary	<u>carnivore</u> - an animal that eats other animals <u>food chain</u> - a series of organisms, each eating or being eaten <u>herbivore</u> - an animal that eats plants <u>omnivore</u> - an animal that eats both plants and animals
Background Information	Although at first glance the desert may seem to have little in the way of wildlife, it actually contains large, diverse populations. The variety of plant and animal species create an important niche in the desert ecosystem. In the Mojave Desert plants and animals interact in many different ways; animals help plants with pollination and seed dispersal, plants provide animals with food, water and shelter. Plants and animals depend on each other for their survival; when one plant or animal species becomes eliminated from a desert community, other animals who are dependent on that species for food are also affected.
National Science Standards	All animals depend on plants. Some animals eat plants for food. Other animals eat animals that eat the plants.
Nevada State Standards	Students know humans and other animals use their senses to know their world. Students know plants and animals need certain resources for energy and growth. Students know plants and animals can be sorted by observable characteristics and behaviors.
Arizona State Standards	Understand the life cycles of plants and animals. Understand the relationship among various plants and animals and their environment. Communicate the result and conclusions of an investigation (e.g., verbal, drawn, or written).

Teachers! - check out our web site: www.nps.gov/lake and other educational opportunities for your grade level through our interagency partnership: www.enviroedexchange.org.

Southern Nevada Agency Partnership

