

Lake Mead

Environmental Education

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



Grade 2 - Post-Site Activity

“Food for Life”



Objectives

Students will determine what might happen when there is a missing link in the food chain.

Vocabulary

food chain- a series of organisms, each eating or being eaten

habitat- the place where an animal or plant lives in nature

Materials

Ball of yarn

Paper

crayons or colored pencils

Time

1 hour

Overview of Activity

1. Start a discussion by making a list on the board of the animals that were studied on the field trip. Then get the students thinking about what else makes up a habitat (animals, plants, soil, rain, sun). Make sure there are plants, animals, decomposers and the sun on the list.
2. Assign each student one of the following: an animal, plant, the sun, rain and soil, and give them time to draw a picture of their part of the habitat.
3. Once everyone has finished their pictures, have all of the students sit down in a circle, and make sure everyone can see all of the pictures.
4. Give the ball of yarn to one student. Explain that the students are allowed to throw the ball of yarn to someone else in the circle that they would have a connection with. The student has to say what the connection is as they throw the yarn. Each student is allowed to throw it to only one other student.
5. Once every student has been allowed to throw the ball of yarn while holding on to their piece of yarn, and everyone has a connection, then have all of the students hold onto their yarn and stand up in the circle.
6. Read off 3-5 interactions that would impact the local environment. Some examples would be a fire destroyed all the plants or a poacher killed certain animals. For every example that you read, have who ever is affected by that example let go of the yarn and sit down. The students could be led through the connections and see how everything is interconnected.
7. End the discussion with the thought about how everything is connected together. A possible extension for the teacher to do would be a more in-depth ecosystem discussion, including decomposers and humans.



Making a difference! Your students can begin to make a difference wherever they live. Have your class come up with a project using the experience from their field trip to Lake Mead National Recreation Area to show others that they care about their desert community.

Southern Nevada Agency Partnership



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.

For volunteer opportunities go to www.getoutdoorsnevada.org.