

The Food Web Matching Game

Directions for Play

Materials Needed:

Printed game boards (one per team), scissors (one pair per team), tape (one per team), printed trophic tables (one per team), printed clue cards (one set per team), printed answer key, dictionary (optional)

Directions:

1. Divide your class into groups of 3-4 people. Provide each group with a game board, a trophic table, a set of clue cards, scissors and tape.
2. Have each team cut the individual organism boxes off of the bottom of their game board. If you haven't already done so, have the students cut the individual clue cards along the lines.
3. Explain to the teams that their jobs are to match the organisms to their position on the food web. The trophic tables provide them with all of the information that they need to accomplish this task. Remind them that the arrows on the web indicate the direction of energy flow. You might allow them to use the dictionary if they are not familiar with the terms in the trophic table (in the on-line version, students can refer to the glossary).
4. When the team decides on the placement of an organism, have them look up the clue that corresponds to their placement. For example, if a team places "Algae" in position "A" on the web, the Algae Clue Card refers the team to Clue #2 which reads, "Remember that primary producers are at the *base* of the food web." This tells the team that their placement was incorrect, and gives them a hint to help them place the organism correctly. When the team makes a correct placement, the clue will read, "Correct!"
5. Once a team is confident in their placement of all of the organisms on the web, have them tape their organisms in place and present their game board to you for review.
6. When all teams have successfully completed the game, discuss the outcome with the class as a whole. What were some problems that the teams ran into? What did the teams learn in the process?