

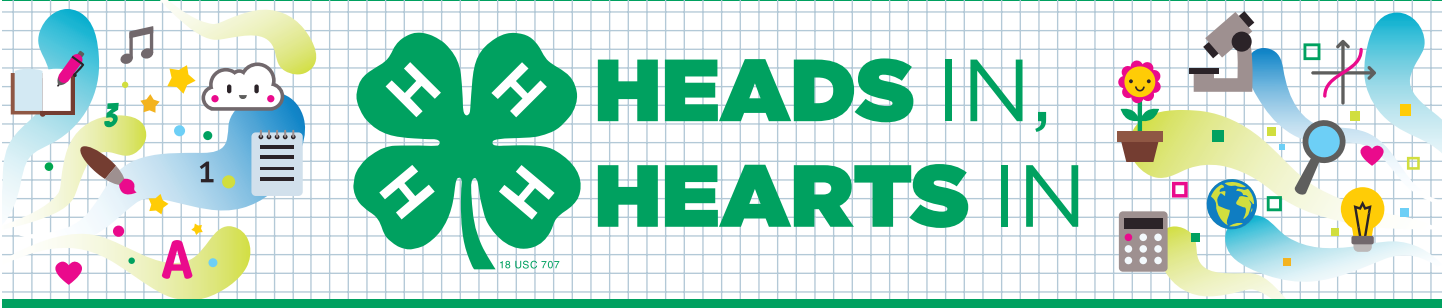
Supplies

- “Guide for Families” handout
- Clear plastic standup display (optional)
- “Plants and Animals” handout
- 6 boxes that stack inside of each other
- Scissors
- Wrapping paper or other decorative paper
- Clear, heavy-duty packaging tape.
- Display table

Activity Preparation

- ▶ Purchase or locate items on supply list.
- ▶ Print one copy of the “Guide for Families” handout. Laminate or place in a clear plastic standup display to allow participants to see it more readily.
- ▶ Cover boxes with decorative paper.
- ▶ Print “Plants and Animals” handout.
- ▶ Cut out each plant and animal.
- ▶ Using clear, heavy-duty packaging tape, attach plant and animal pictures to each box in the order they would be found in the food chain. (The higher up the plant or animal is in the food chain, the bigger the box.)
- ▶ Set up the display table and arrange needed supplies.





Food Chain Stacking

Guide for Families

Learning Objectives

What you need to know:

Some animals eat plants. Some animals eat other animals. A **food chain** begins when a plant is eaten by an animal. Then that animal is eaten by another animal and so on.

Every living thing needs energy in order to live. Energy is obtained through food. Plants use sunlight and carbon dioxide to make food. Animals get energy from the food they eat, which can be plants or animals. In the **food chain**, energy is transferred from plants to various species of animals as each animal eats another.

Each plant or animal holds a special role: **producer** (plant) or **consumer** (animal).

What you will do and learn:

You will investigate the food chain. You will decide if each of the animals or plants pictured are producers or consumers. You will organize the food chain in its proper order.

Instructions

1. Look at the pictures on the boxes.
2. Think about a food chain. Some animals eat plants, while some animals eat other animals. Start with the grass and think about which animals eat grass.
3. Stack the boxes in the order you think the food chain would go.
4. Continue to stack the boxes building the food chain. Which animal will be last?

Think about it: Which of the animals or plants is a producer or a consumer? Can a producer also be a consumer? Can a consumer also be a producer?

Food Chain Stacking

Plants and Animals Handout



Photograph © iStock.com/adarkov

Grass

Food Chain Stacking

Plants and Animals Handout, continued



Photograph © iStock.com/hurtied

Grasshopper

Food Chain Stacking

Plants and Animals Handout, continued



Photograph © iStock.com/rkhalli

Snake

Food Chain Stacking

Plants and Animals Handout, continued



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Owl

Food Chain Stacking

Plants and Animals Handout, continued



Photograph © iStock.com/CreativeNature_nl

Mouse

Food Chain Stacking

Plants and Animals Handout, continued



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Coyote