

Web of Life Game

Ecological concept: INTERDEPENDENCE

Key concept statement: “Every living thing depends on something else.”

Materials:

Organism cards
Yarn
Scissors

Overview: This is the classic Web of Life Game, emphasizing the ecological concept of interdependence.

Campers sit in a circle.

Leader gives each camper one Organism Card.

Each Organism Card has a the name of an organism, along with a simple picture of that organism (to help preliterate, or not-quite-literate children).

Leader asks each camper to introduce their organism — say the organism’s name, and one or two things you know about that organism. If the camper does not know how to pronounce the organism’s name, or if they don’t know anything about the organism, the leader can help them out: “Your organism is a coyote, a coyote is related to dogs, they are smart and will eat almost anything from deer to grasshoppers.”

Next the leader asks the campers to look around at the other organisms in the circle, and think about what their own organism needs to stay alive. For example, a honeybee needs pollen from flowers — both pumpkins and apple trees have flowers — a honeybee needs pumpkins and apple trees.

Now the leader starts with one camper, and has them say ONE OTHER ORGANISM in the circle that their organism needs. The leader gives one end of the yarn to that camper (it will help them hold on to it if you tie a loop in the end), and stretches the yarn to that other camper/organism.

Now that camper names one organism that THEY need. Stretch yarn again.

Keep going until all the organisms are linked to each other at least once. The leader may have to help out the campers with ideas. In the end, you should have a web of yarn connecting all the campers. Tell the campers that this is the Web of Life.

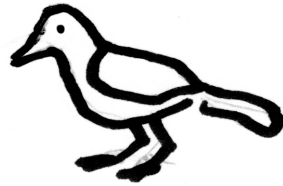
Finally, take your scissors. “What happens if we kill off all the mosquitos?” Then cut all the yarn strands going in to the mosquito, and see who is affected.

Wind up with the Key Concept Statement: “Every living thing depends on something else. We are all INTERDEPENDENT.”

Making Organism Cards:

Organisms should be familiar to the children. Make sure the organisms can be connected in multiple ways. Attached are 13 sample Organism Cards that work well (feel free to copy for personal use, they are copyrighted to prohibit reselling or commercial use).

robin



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earthworm



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honey bee

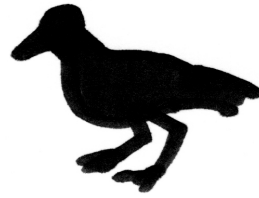


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human

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crow



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coyote



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mouse



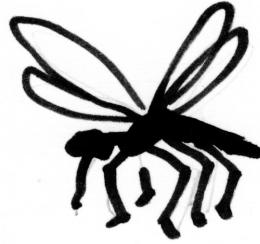
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apple tree



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mosquito



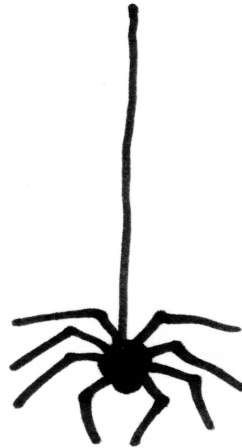
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deer



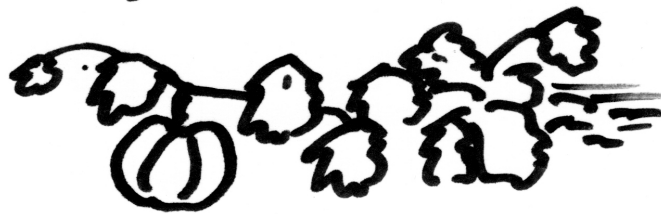
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spider



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pumpkin



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frog



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