Local Predators and Prey

GRADE 4

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Manitoba is home to many different habitats, and different living things within them. Animals have adaptations that help them escape their predators, and find food and shelter. In this activity, students select a local habitat and create a food chain diagram explaining relationships between animals.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

Habitats and Communities - 4-1-11, 4-1-13, 4-1-14, 4-1-15

How do you say **"predator"** in Michif?

natou pimawchihoow
(naw-toh pim-ah-cha-ho)

LESSON

Understanding the relationships between predator and prey animals becomes more real and fascinating when students are encouraged to learn about the food chain in habitats found close to home.

1. Have your students create a short list of common animals that are found in Winnipeg or elsewhere in Manitoba, using available guidebooks or the internet.
2. Have students categorize the animals according to their habitat (forest, grassland or aquatic). Have them select one habitat and its animals for further research.
3. Have students research an example of each in their habitat: a carnivore, omnivore, herbivore and scavenger. Research these animals' diets, shelter, and behaviour.
4. Have students complete a food chain diagram including their animals as predators and prey. Remember to show where plants fit in.
5. Have students determine impacts if one of the animals in their food chain was removed from the habitat.
6. Have students describe one way that humans can harm their habitat of choice, and one way that humans can protect or conserve the habitat.

FortWhyte Animal Tracks Key - common mammals