



A Lesson on Breaking the Food Chain by Aron Speedy

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: More than 3 hours

Lesson Keywords: http://lessonfarm.com/lesson_edit.php?id=1194

Lesson Description: Reading a writing about the food chain and how it affected wildlife in Chicago. Identifying and understanding vocabulary words and using them in a sentence. Discussing key topics and points of the article. Finally writing an opinion and reflection on what the student views as most important about the food chain.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Breaking the Food Chain

by

Content: A food chain is a link between plants and animals. It starts with a plant. The next part of the link is a plant eater. When the prairie plants were uprooted, the animals that depended on them lost their food source. So while the farmers produced more food for people, they broke the animals food chain. For example, if a bird needs seeds to eat and the plant is gone, that bird will not be able to survive. And the animals that ate that bird wont have any food, either.

A food chain is part of a bigger system called a food web. That web links the living things in an environment. The herbivores in that system depend on the plants. If the plants are removed, the herbivores cannot survive. Herbivores in Chicago include rabbits, squirrels, and many insects. Long ago, they used to include bison and deer. Today you will find some deer in some parts of this area, but you wont find them in the city.

When herbivores lose their food, they die out. Then the carnivores, the animals that eat other animals, lose their food, too. Wolves used to depend on the deer for their food. Without deer, the wolves lost their food. Foxes died out, too. They had hunted birds, even catching ducks when they were on the side of ponds.

Remove just one kind of plant from an environment and you disrupt a food chain. Plow up the land and you destroy the whole system.

What happened in Chicago? People moved in. They built homes. They built streets. They took away land from nature. Look at this timeline and youll see how more and more people moved here. We dont have the numbers for the bison or deer. But we know that today there are no bison in Chicago, you will only find them at the zoo.

1880 The population of the city is 503,185; farms continue to expand

1890 The population of the city is 1,099,850

1900 The population is 1,698,676

1910 Factories expand in the city; population is 2,185,283

1920 The citys population has grown to 2,701,705

1930 The citys population is 3,376,438

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: So while the farmers produced more food for people, they broke the animals? food chain.

WordPhraseTier: 3

Question: "So while the farmers produced more food for people, they broke the animals? food chain. For example, if a bird needs seeds to eat and the plant is gone, that bird will not be able to survive." What does the word broke mean in this context?

- A:** shattered into pieces
- B:** mentally abused
- C:** made unstable/ unpredictable
- D:** made better

Question: Which sentence uses the word broke in the same context.

- A:** My friend has now money so he is broke.
- B:** The egg fell on the floor and it broke.
- C:** The economy broke when there were more people than jobs.
- D:** The mechanic was given praise when he broke the car back to new.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: uprooted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says \"When the prairie plants were uprooted, the animals that depended on them lost their food source.\" What does the word uprooted mean?

- A:** Dug up from the ground *
- B:** Turned upside down
- C:** Eaten
- D:** Watered

Question: Which sentence uses the word uprooted correctly?

- A:** If you uproot a cup of water it will spill.
- B:** Jimmy uprooted a bowl of cereal for breakfast
- C:** The leaves on the shrubs look dry someone should uproot it.
- D:** The farmer uprooted his beet crop for harvest and sale to the market. *

Q: 3 WordPhrase: ...herbivores cannot survive. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "A food chain is part of a bigger system called a food web. That web links the living things in an environment. The herbivores in that system depend on the plants. If the plants are removed, the herbivores cannot survive." What is an herbivore?

- A:** A spice plant that eats other plants
- B:** something/ someone that eats only meat
- C:** something/ someone that eats only plants
- D:** a type of bacteria

Question: Which sentence uses the word herbivore correctly?

- A:** The largest dinosaurs were herbivores that had teeth only able to eat plants.
- B:** Some herbivores like the T-rex are hunters that eat meat.
- C:** The herbivore bacteria grows in damp wet conditions in the jungle.
- D:** My basil plant is an herbivore.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: disrupt **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Remove just one kind of plant from an environment and you disrupt a food chain. Plow up the land and you destroy the whole system." What does disrupt mean.?

- A:** to make better
- B:** add more to
- C:** change
- D:** fix

Question: Which sentence uses the word disrupt correctly?

- A:** The power outage disrupted the movie when the electricity went out.
- B:** "Let's disrupt class by sitting quietly during the morning announcements."
- C:** I asked the mechanic to disrupt my engine to like new condition.
- D:** The nightly news was disrupted by another predicted airing.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Only find them at the zoo

We don't have the numbers for the bison or deer. But we know that today there are no bison in Chicago, you will only find them at the zoo. Explain why the writer is referring that the only game animals are in zoos?

2 - food chain is a link between plants and animals.

A food chain is a link between plants and animals. If plants and animals have a link together where is the line that separates common civilization from them?

3 - but you won't find them in the city

Today you will find some deer in some parts of this area, but you won't find them in the city. Why and where is inferred as this area but not the city.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: The food chain is a link between plants and animals. Many say it starts with the plant, what do you think is the most important part of the food chain; be the plant and its ability to grow?and takeover the land or the destruction caused by cutting trees down for cow farms or humans building cities? Provide and 200 word response.

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