Build a Food Web Activity

As you have learned, a food web is a more accurate depiction of how energy moves through a community of organisms. Food chains show only a single set of energy transfers, ignoring that many organisms obtain energy from many different sources, and in turn may provide energy to many different organisms.

In this activity, you will be building a food web for our local Tulare County foothills. You have been provided with images of a number of organisms that are native to the area.

Directions:

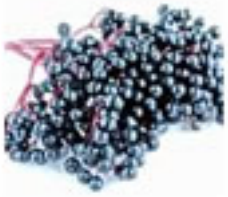
1. Cut out the animal icons from the paper provided. It is recommended that you leave the adhesive backing ON the icons until you are confident in the manner that you have organized your food web.
2. You must use ALL of the icons – no fair making some members of the community disappear. The icons **are not** drawn to scale!
3. On the poster board provided, organize the icons. Establish as many energy-transfer relationships as possible. If you are not certain if an organism might be someone else's food source, feel free to use your book and/or the Internet for research.
4. Using a straight edge (ruler), draw lines showing the energy transfer relationships on your board. Remember: The arrowhead should point AT the organism that is CONSUMING the other organism.
5. Along each line connecting two organisms, identify the relationship that exists between the two:
    - Producer → Primary consumer
    - Primary consumer → Secondary consumer
    - Secondary consumer → Tertiary consumer
    - Consumer → Decomposer
    - Producer → Decomposer

    (Are there any relationships that are difficult to describe in the terms given above?)

When you submit your poster board, be certain to have the names of ALL of the members of your group listed in the upper-right hand corner (Front) of the board.

Coyote

Mule deer



Elderberry bush

Fox

Frog

Wild grasses

Grasshopper

Hawk

Jackrabbit

Lizard

Meadowlark

Mosquito

Field mouse

Mushroom

Oak tree

Rattlesnake

Scrub jay

Squirrel

Sunlight