

# Lions, Tigers & Monsters, Oh My!

## Day 3: It's Dinner Time!

### Teacher/Parent Background:

Lions, tigers and monsters? Yes, you read that correctly; monsters! By creating a unique monster, students will apply their understanding of the needs of living things and their roles in their environments. Living things need ways/strategies to obtain the energy they need to survive in their environments. Some living things, called consumers, directly consume other living things for food. Other living things, called producers, produce their own food using sunlight, water and gases in the surrounding air. In science, we describe the possible path energy can take through an ecosystem, between one living thing to the next, as a food chain.

### Overview:

In this activity, students will create a food chain to show the feeding relationships between their monster and other living things in their ecosystems.

### Related Standards:

- Develop and use models to explain that plants and animals (including humans) have internal and external structures that serve various functions that aid in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

### Key Terms:

- Producers: living things that make their own food.
- Consumers: living things that eat other living things for food.
- Food chain: a path energy can take through an ecosystem, from one living thing to the next.

### Materials List:

- Pen/pencil
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Possible visual representation resources:
  - Colored pencils/crayons/markers
  - Internet access for images/pictures
- Internet access - optional for *Extensions*
- Computer/phone with audio - optional for *Extensions*

- *Student Resources - Pages 4-6*
  - *Food Chain Puzzle - Story & Pieces*
  - *Food Chain Puzzle - Puzzle Mat*
  - *My Monster's Dinner - Portfolio Page 3*

### Activity Description:

- Revisit student ideas from *Day 2's: A Place to Call Home*.
  - How would you now describe your monster and your monster's ecosystem?
  - What else might we need to know about your monster as the project continues?
- As we continue this project, we still need to know a few things about your monster! One of which is how your monster gets the energy it needs to survive and grow. Just like us, some living things called *consumers*, eat other living things for food.
  - For example:
    - A wolf eats a deer to get the energy it needs.
    - A rabbit eats a plant to get the energy it needs.
- Other living things call *producers*, make their own food using resources in its environment, like sunlight and water.
  - For example:
    - Plants, trees and bushes make their own food to get the energy they need.
- In science, we organize these feeding relationships using a food chain. A *food chain* shows a path energy can take through an ecosystem, from one living thing to the next.
- Today, you are going to create your monster's food chain by answering the following questions:
  - What does your monster eat in its ecosystem?
  - How does it eat? What structures help it eat?
  - What eats your monster in its ecosystem?
  - How does that living thing eat? What structures help it eat?
- To help you get started, we are going to explore an example of a food chain!
  - Engage students in the following activity:
    - Using the story and images in the *Food Chain Puzzle*, organize the feeding relationships into a food chain.
      - **Note:** Guide students through cutting the puzzle pieces and glueing/taping the pieces into the puzzle mat. Always monitor and assist students with scissors. During this time, share the following main ideas:
        - Remember, food chains show a path energy can take through an ecosystem, from one living thing to the next.

- Food chains are organized a certain way. They always start with producers, since they get their energy from sunlight and other resources. The Sun is how energy first enters the ecosystem.
  - Feel free to draw in a picture of the Sun to the left of the grass, if wanted!
- We can use arrows to show the flow of energy in an ecosystem, from one living thing to the next. The arrows represent the flow of energy.
  - You can glue/tape in the arrows below the mat or below the puzzle piece image of the living thing.
  - Feel free to draw an arrow from the Sun to the grass, to show that the grass gets energy from the Sun!
- After creating an example of a food chain, let's revisit your monster! Remember, today you are creating your monster's food chain! Focus on the following questions to guide you:
  - What does your monster eat in its ecosystem?
  - How does it eat? What structures help it eat?
  - What eats your monster in its ecosystem?
  - How does that living thing eat? What structures help it eat?
    - Assist and monitor students as they begin creating their ecosystems, by guiding them through the *My Monster's Dinner - Portfolio Page 3*.
    - Encourage students to use colored pencils/crayons/markers to help them illustrate the food chain.

### Closure:

- After the activity has concluded, engage in a discussion with students:
  - How would you describe your monster's food chain?
  - Now that you have created your monster's food chain, what changes do you want to make to your monster/monster's structures to make sure it is best suited to live in its ecosystem? Are there any changes you want to make to your ecosystem's living things?
    - Feel free to update your *Monster's Portrait* from Day 1 and your *Monster's Ecosystem* from Day 2!

### Extensions:

Watch! Crash Course Kids - [Fabulous Food Chains](#) & [Food Webs](#)

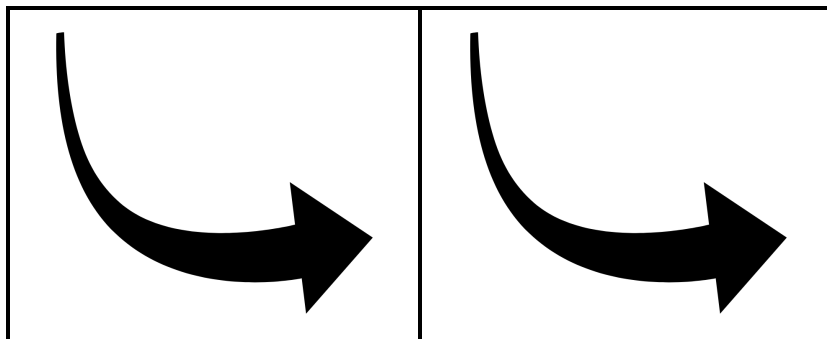
## Student Resources

### Food Chain Puzzle - Story & Pieces

#### Story:

On one sunny day in the forest, a deer awoke and was feeling very hungry! Using its rough-textured teeth, the deer grinds-up and eats lots of grass and plants. Feeling full of energy, the deer runs through the forest and comes face-to-face with a wolf! The wolf, who hasn't eaten in a long time, needs energy to survive. The wolf chases the deer and uses its sharp and strong teeth to eat the deer. Just around the trees, three, small wolf cubs join their mom and eat their first meal together.

#### Puzzle Pieces:



## Food Chain Puzzle - Puzzle Mat

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## My Monster's Dinner - Portfolio Page 3

### Food Chain

- Be sure to include names and drawings of the living things and your monster.
- Don't forget to include arrows to show the path of energy!

### Food Chain Brainstorming!

Think back to the other living things in your monster's ecosystem. What does your monster eat in its ecosystem?

Think back to your monster's structures. How does it eat? What structures (mouth, legs/arms, etc.) help it eat?

What eats your monster in its ecosystem? How does that living thing eat? What structures (mouth, legs/arms, etc.) help it eat?