

PREDATORS AND PREY / LESSON OVERVIEW

Objectives

The students will:

- recognize the concepts of predator and prey;
- understand why predators are important;
- connect their knowledge of predators, prey, and food chains to real world applications;
- and participate in group activities and class discussions.

Lesson Summary

Part 1. Introduction to Food Chains (5 – 10 minutes)

Students define food chain and learn why they are important to ecosystems.

Part 2. Predators and Prey (5 – 15 minutes)

Students define predator and prey and discuss their roles in a food chain. Students also learn about apex predators and why they are important to keeping balance in an ecosystem.

Part 3. Predators and the Environment (15 – 25 minutes)

Students further explore the importance of maintaining balance in an ecosystem. Specifically, students learn how sharks play a large role in keeping the oceans healthy. Students are then introduced to OCEARCH and the Global Shark Tracker™, where they learn how important it is to learn everything we can about sharks in order to protect them in the wild.

Activity 1. Guess the Predator (20 – 30 minutes)

With the goal of identifying different ocean predators using deductive reasoning, students will ask multiple questions about a given predator until the predator is identified.

Materials

- Cutout pictures (provided)
- Tape