

Animal Adaptations

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

An animal's body is adapted to how it gets its food. The teeth or beak usually give the answer away. Animals sort into herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. A hunting carnivore is a predator; what it catches is prey.

Most food chains start with plants, because plants capture energy from sunlight. About ninety percent of food is burned for energy at each step, so food chains stay short and herbivores usually outnumber carnivores.

Predators keep herbivores from overgrazing, and their own limits keep them from wiping out their prey. Remove a piece and the balance tips.

Activity 1: Word Sort Challenge

Sort the words in the box. Write each word under the right heading.

WORD BANK

sharp predator beak short prey catches hunting start teeth burned

Nouns

Verbs

Adjectives

Activity 2: Statement or Question?

Read each sentence. Write S if it is a statement or Q if it is a question. Then add the correct end mark on the line.

- ☐ 1. What do herbivores eat ____
- ☐ 2. A predator hunts its prey ____
- ☐ 3. Why do food chains stay short ____
- ☐ 4. Most food chains start with plants ____

Activity 3: Two Into One

Put the two short sentences together into one smooth sentence. If there is a word in the box, use it.

1. A lion is a carnivore.

and

A lion is a predator.

2. Rabbits eat plants.

but

Foxes eat rabbits.
