

Lake Summerville State Park:

EXPLORING FOOD WEBS

Instructions: Find a safe spot near the water's edge. Look carefully at the living things in and around the lake. Draw a picture of something you find for each step below, then draw an arrow to show what eats it!

Note to parents/guardians: Please be aware that this activity takes place near the lake. For the safety of all participants, please accompany your child and maintain close supervision throughout the entire activity.



- 1 The Sun:** Everything needs energy, and it all starts with the sun! Draw a big sun at the top of your page.
- 2 Plants:** Plants use energy as a food source. Draw a picture of a plant that lives in or near the water.
- 3 The Plant Eater:** Draw a small bug or animal that eats plants. (Look for a water snail, a small bug on a leaf, or a tiny tadpole).

Flip the page to continue...

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- 4 The Animal Eater:** Draw a small bug or animal that eats plants. (Look for a small fish, a frog, or a dragonfly flying around).
- 5 The Top Predator:** Draw a bigger animal that eats the other animals you have found. (Look for a larger fish, a turtle, or a bird like a heron.)
- 6 Decomposers:** Draw an example of a decomposer. (Hint: Draw a mushroom or a small bug, or just draw the symbol for “bacteria” with squiggly lines.)

After you are done , then **connect the web!** Use your pencil to draw arrows from the living things you drew to the things that eat them.

What would happen if some of the animals you drew disappeared?

What if a type of plant, like algae, grew too much?

You see, everything is connected! The plants feed the bugs, the bugs feed the fish, and the fish feed the birds, and the sun powers it all! By observing, drawing, and thinking about these connections, you became an expert in the lake’s ecosystem. Remember, everything, including humans, play a role in keeping the lake healthy. Lake Somerville is a man-made lake, which makes it an extra special habitat to protect!

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