

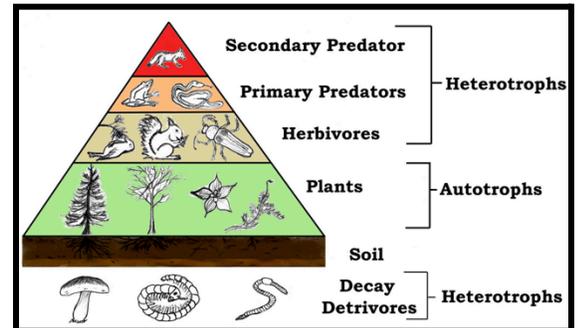
# Food Chain Human Puzzle

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 10-15 minute Activity

**Everybody is food for somebody else!** This brief activity gets students thinking about organisms' roles in the ecosystem based on what they eat. Students become familiar with food chains, trophic levels and the nutrient (carbon) cycle.

*Great for: Introducing the concept of the carbon cycle. Kinesthetic learning.*



**Time:** 10 – 15 minutes

**Materials:**

- 1 species card per student.
- Enough space to move around

**Introduction:**

1. Begin by making sure each student understands what their organism is and what it eats. You may want to first do one of the other activities that familiarize the students with these organisms like *Who Am I*.
2. This activity could be talked through with volunteers demonstrating at the front of the class and then/or students could be allowed to work in groups to build chains.

**Activity:**

1. Students build food chains by linking arms with an organism they could eat. You may want to designate that your right arm is for attaching to something you would eat and your left arm is for attaching to something that eats you.
2. Challenge variations: What's the longest chain you can build? See if you can link everyone into the same chain and then link the ends together into one big circle.

**Closing discussion:** Just as there are many right answers the food chain puzzle, there are many different ways living things interact and depend on each other in nature. In nature, everything is food for something else creating a perpetual cycle of nutrients.

**Facilitation Tips**

- Depending on the level of challenge your students are ready for, you may want to set them up for success by creating groups that include one plant, one herbivore, one carnivore and one decomposer.
- You may want to designate that decomposers focus on carnivores to help maximize chains.