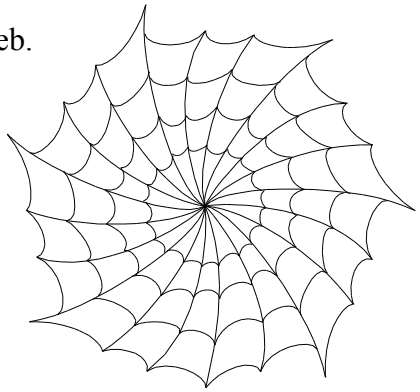
The Everglades Food Web Story

http://fcelter.fiu.edu/schoolyard

Purpose: To determine the relationships between organisms in a food web.



Materials:

- "The Food Web Story"
- Poster paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colored pencils

Procedures:

1. Read "The Food Web Story", and carefully highlight the names of the organisms that are mentioned in the story.
2. On a blank sheet of paper, write the name of each organism. Leave space around each name.
3. Cut out each organism name and place the names on the poster paper.
4. Using the information found in "The Food Web Story", lay the organisms names out so that organisms which feed from each other are grouped together.
5. When you are satisfied with the placement of each organism name, glue the names to the poster paper.
6. Using your colored pencils, draw lines that connect the organisms and show their feeding relationships. (Remember that the arrows represent the direction of energy flow!)
7. Select 10 organisms in the web, and draw illustrations of those organisms next to their names.
8. Using a separate sheet of paper, fold the sheet in half.
9. On the front of the page, label each half as follows: Top half- Primary Producers; Bottom half- Decomposers. On the back of the page, label the entire side as Consumers.
10. Using the food web you have created, and "The Food Web Story", write the name of each organism in the section it belongs.
11. For each organism placed in the Consumer section, decide whether it is an Herbivore, a Carnivore, an Omnivore, or a Parasite. Write the correct identification in parenthesis next to each organism in the Consumer section.

Results:

Upon completion of the lab your group will have created a diagram of a food web and a chart of the three categories that organisms in the food web fall into.

Conclusion:

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. (One paper per group member)

1. Which trophic level contains the most energy?
2. How much energy is lost between trophic levels? Where does that "lost" energy go?
3. Define autotroph. Name 3 autotrophs from the food web.
4. Define heterotroph. Name 3 heterotrophs from the food web.
5. Pick one of the organisms mentioned in your food web and explain what would happen in each of the following situations:
    a. The population of that organism tripled in size.
    b. The organisms went extinct.