



Air and trees

Curriculum Links:

- **Science** Living things
Environmental awareness and care
- **Geography** Human environments
- **SPHE** Myself and the wider world

Lesson objectives:

To teach students about the different food chains that exist in the tree and to introduce the concept of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. To emphasise how important trees are for the farm and countryside.

Teacher guidelines

It is suggested that teachers ensure that students are familiar with the vocabulary and concepts introduced in the previous modules before starting this lesson.

Keywords and concepts Introduced in Module 1:

trees trunk roots tunnels branches air

Trees are all around us and each part of the tree has its own important job. Trees also help keep our air fresh and clean.

After revision of the above, teachers could discuss the more detailed information below.

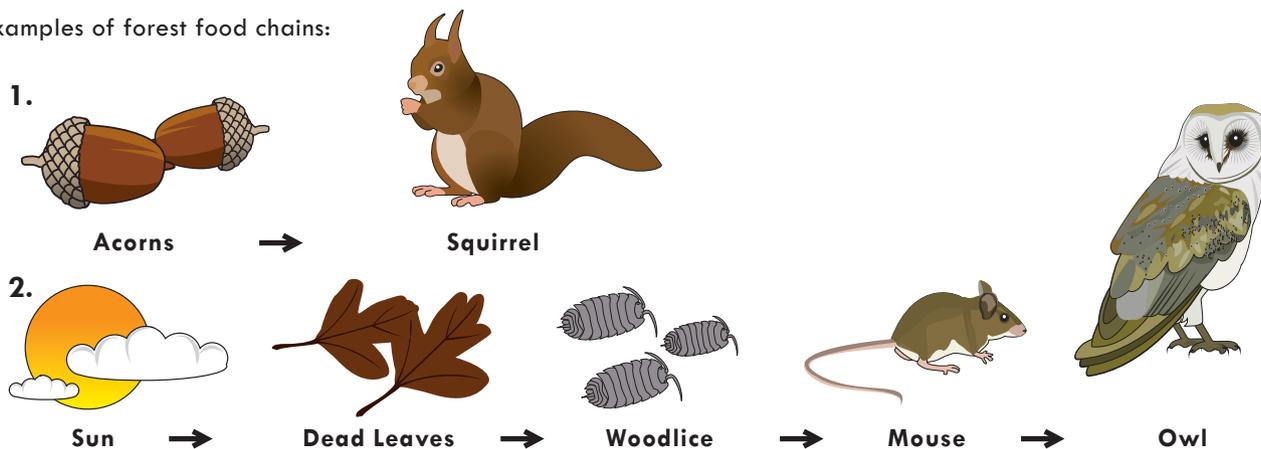
Keywords for this lesson:

herbivores carnivores omnivore shelter drained

Food chains

We have already learned that many food chains exist in the hedgerow. You will also find some food chains in the tree. Think of all the creatures that make their homes in the tree. Birds build their nests here, squirrels find homes in little hollows and rabbits burrow under the roots. They must all get food and so they depend on other species within the tree. Look at these different food chains, found in the woodland below.

Examples of forest food chains:



The different creatures of the food chain

You might notice that in the food chain, some animals only eat plants, such as cows, sheep, rabbits, slugs and snails. These are called **herbivores**. Those that eat other animals, such as foxes and owls, are called **carnivores**. Humans are called **omnivores** as we eat both plants and animals.



Herbivores



Carnivores



Omnivores

Why are trees important on the farm?

The farmer takes good care of trees on the farm. The tree will take good care of the plants and animals on the farm. When the rain starts falling, the trees are the first place that animals such as cows and sheep will go to for **shelter**. Trees are also home to birds, small animals and insects.

The tree also helps the soil. Roots hold the soil together and soak up water. This helps prevent the farm from flooding. Soil that is well **drained** is very healthy and will produce good crops and grass. The leaves on the tree also help to produce clean air.

Suggested activities

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 54
- Get the class to create a collage of food chains that exist in trees
- List all the birds, plants, animals and insects that live in trees
- Go on a nature walk. Identify signs of life that exist in or around the tree
- Gather different leaves on your nature walk and identify which trees the leaves fell from
- Game: Place the words 'herbivore, carnivore, omnivore and decomposer' on the classroom wall. Get the pupils to go over to the correct word when that particular animal, insect, bird is shouted out. Don't forget to mention all the animals that you might see in and around the farm
- Get one pupil to stand at the top of the classroom. They must choose a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore without telling the rest of the class. The rest of the class should guess what creature they are thinking of. They can only ask 'Yes' or 'No' questions
- For extension material, see Modules 3 and 4

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should know about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. They should also know why trees are important for the farm and countryside.

Additional resources:

- www.agriaware.ie

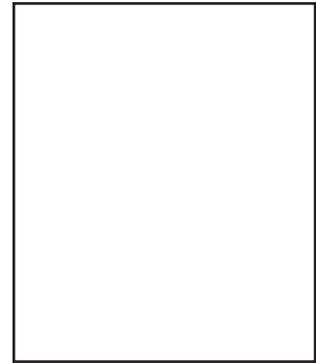
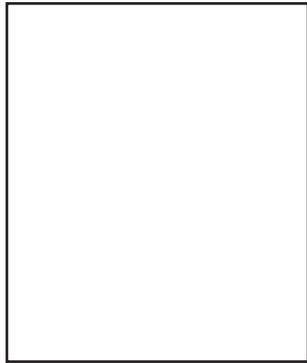


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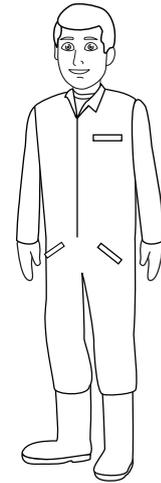
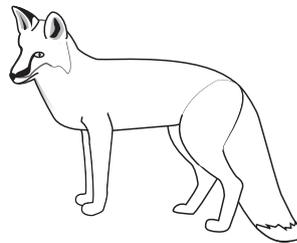
1 Create a food chain – Draw and colour in the pictures



2 Match the words to the picture

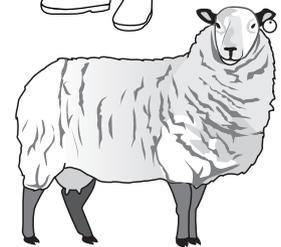
Draw and colour in the pictures

Herbivore



Omnivore

Carnivore



*To be used with teacher guidelines, page 28