

Title:	Where's Your Niche?
Performance Expectations:	Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.
Clarification Statement:	Emphasis is on the idea that matter that is not food (air, water, decomposed materials in soil) is changed by plants into matter that is food. Examples of systems could include organisms, ecosystems, and the Earth.
Time:	One or two class periods
Resources:	computers with Internet access, materials to make food chains
Gathering Information:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to pbslearningmedia.org and sign up for free. Students can also sign up if you want them to have individual access. 2. On the PBS Learning Media website, search for Food Chain. 3. Have your students watch the video on food chains (2:27). Then scroll down to find the video on Food Webs (0:44). 4. While watching, the students should define the vocabulary words listed in the Reasoning section below.
Reasoning:	<p>Construct explanation from evidence: Have students pair up and compare what they learned. Lead a class discussion on the vocabulary words.</p> <p><i>Vocabulary: food chain, producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, scavenger, decomposer, food web</i></p>
Communicating:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All students should create their own food chain. This can be a poster or a series of note cards linked together in a chain. 2. The chain needs to begin with the sun, and then go to a producer, a primary consumer, and a secondary consumer, then to a scavenger or decomposer. 3. At least five items need to be on the food chain. Each item in the chain should be drawn and have a description of how the item fits into the food chain.

Science & Engineering Practices:	Developing and Using Models Engaging in Argument From Evidence Science Models, Laws, Mechanisms, and Theories Explain Natural Phenomena
Disciplinary Core Ideas:	Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
Cross Cutting Concepts:	Systems and System Models Energy and Matter