

What They Munch For Lunch: Animal Adaptations II

Grades: 7 and 8

Length: 50 minutes

South Dakota Content Standards

- ◆ 7th Grade Life Science: 7, 11, and 12
- ◆ 8th Grade Life Science: 10 and 12

National Science Standards

- ◆ 5th through 8th: C

Objectives

Define vocabulary words that describe animals diets.

Examine the diets of common prairie animals.

Vocabulary

Herbivore: eats only plants

Carnivore: eats only animals

Omnivore: eats both plants and animals

Insectivore: carnivore that specializes in eating insects

Frugivore: herbivore that specializes in eating fruit

Predator: organism that kills and eats another organism

Prey: organism that is killed and eaten by a predator

Materials

- ◆ Resources for research:

Field guide to mammals

Internet

School library

Public library

Procedure

1. Have the students write a brief definition for each of the following words: herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, insectivore, frugivore, predator, and prey.
2. Review the definitions with the students. Ask questions like “Can something be both a predator and an herbivore?” (Yes - plants are organisms too, so remember that herbivores are their predators), “Can something be an omnivore and a predator?” (Yes), and “Can something be a carnivore and prey?” (Yes)
3. Divide the class into research teams. Have students research the diets of prairie animals native to the mixed-grass prairie of South Dakota.
4. Did all of the animals eat food that students expected they would? Discuss.
5. Encourage the students to come up with vocabulary words that describe the diet of imaginary animals (i.e. ones that eat computers, or garbage, or fast food, etc.) Who can come up with the funniest one?

Additional Information

National Park Service - www.nps.gov

Information on all of America’s National Parks. Includes a special section for students and teachers.

Views of the National Parks - www2.nature.nps.gov/views

Virtual experiences of national parks and knowledge centers on various natural resource themes.

National Park Service Web Rangers - www.nps.gov/webrangers

Kids can become Junior Rangers from their home or school.