



Recycling Nutrients Lessons

Websites

General, Kid-Friendly Web Sites

[EcoKids: Chain Reaction](#)

This website includes a game about food chains. In addition to reinforcing vocabulary, children are challenged to put a food chain together, and speculate what would happen to if one organism in the food chain was removed.

(http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/frogs/chain_reaction/index.cfm)

[Endangered Ecosystems: Build a Food Web](#)

Students investigate some of the animals in the Mexican ecosystem. In the process, they figure out who are the predators and who are their prey and build their own food web. At the end of this activity, they can print a Food Web Certificate of Achievement!

(http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/explorer/ecosystems/be_an_explorer/map/form_wild_cats.htm)

[Animal Games for Kids – Kids Corner](#)

A great child-friendly website that offers a variety of animal games to reinforce what children have learned in the classroom. Game topics include: animal classification, producers and consumers, food chain, animal diet, endangered animals, and animal characteristics.

(<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/gamesforkids.htm>)



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Books

Decomposition and Nutrient Recycling

The books listed below offer comprehensive information about the organisms and processes involved in decomposition and nutrient cycling.

Re-Cycles

By Michael Elsohn Ross; illustrated by Gustav Moore. (2003, Millbrook Press)

Simply describes the two cycles of matter on Earth: the soil cycle and the water cycle. As in *A Log's Life* and *The Gift of the Tree*, the soil cycle is shown through the life and death of a tree.

Who Eats What? Food Chains and Food Webs (Let's Read and Find Out Science)

By Patricia Lauber; illustrated by Holly Keller. (1994, HarperCollins Children's Books)

Although this book delves into food chains and webs without mentioning decomposers, it is a good reference for children who want to go to the next step. It also provides a great foundation for recognizing the importance of having ample nutrients in the soil in order for plants to grow.

Wolf Island

By Celia Godkin. (2006, Fitzhenry and Whiteside Limited)

By the same author as *Sea Otter Inlet*, this book describes and illustrates what happens when a family of wolves is removed from the food chain of a small island.