

Apocalypse Game Post Activity

Program at Nature Station: Backyard Safari: Web of Life

Grade Level: 3rd – 6th

Program Length:

Prep time: none

Activity time: 45 - 60 minutes

Group size: 10 - 50

Setting: Classroom or outside

Vocabulary:

- food web - a series of organisms interrelated in their feeding habits, each being fed upon by another one that in turn feeds yet another

Concepts: “All living things are connected.”

Materials:

- pencils
- list of plants and animals to choose from (as attached or make your own)—one for each group

Background Information:

You want to make sure students are familiar with all the plants and animals on their list and what role they play in their environment. It is very important that students make their own choices, though. There are no right or wrong answers. Try not to influence them in any way.

Procedure:

1. Divide students into groups of 3 to 6. Read them the following hypothetical situation (or create your own):

“The Earth, as we know it, is coming to an end. You people have been chosen to populate a new planet in another solar system. Though smaller than earth, the new planet contains all the essentials for life. However, it contains no living organisms. You have a list of organisms you might take with you, but you can only take 10. Think carefully and be ready to defend your choices.”

2. Allow 10 to 20 minutes for each group to make their choices and decide on the reasons for their decisions. Time needed will vary from group to group, depending upon personalities (and values) involved.

3. Have each group present and define its choices to the other groups. Much discussion should ensue.

Assessment or Evaluation:

Here’s where your job as a teacher/leader comes in—knowing when and how to question, play devil’s advocate, etc. Discussion follow-ups can go in numerous directions.

Source:

Iowa State Extension Service

Animals

Coyote
Barn Swallow
Bobcat
House Sparrow
White-footed Mouse
Opossum
Raccoon
Rattlesnake
White-tailed Deer
Fence Lizard
Bison
Carp
Bat
Mayflies
Leeches

Turkey Vulture
Catfish
Mosquito
Chipmunk
Earthworms
Bacteria
Bullfrog
Red-tailed Hawk
Pig
Cottontail Rabbit
Great Horned Owl
Flies
Skunk
Honey Bees

Plants

Duckweed
Dandelion
Green Algae
Beans
Corn
Poison Ivy
Violet
Blackberries
Lady Slipper Orchid
Prickly Pear Cactus
Red Clover
Pitcher Plant
Bur Oak
Resurrection Fern

Cedar Tree
Club Moss
Grass
Hickory Tree
Honeysuckle
Lichen
White Pine
Grapevine
Slime Mold
Water Lily
Ginko Tree
Cattails
Roses