

FOOD CHAIN SKETCH

Props: None

Rehearsal: None

Suggested usage: In an All Age Service – as a stand-alone or part of a talk

NB This sketch can be used along with some of the 'Children's Biodiversity Activities' also found in this pack.

Preparation:

Have the children come to the front where everybody can see them. Split them into four groups of about equal numbers, apart from one of your biggest children who is in a group of one. (The groups can be of diminishing numbers, but this is not necessary and can lead to unnecessary complications!). You do not need to name the groups until you come to them in the story.

The narrator / story-teller needs to be clear-speaking (with either a microphone or a loud voice), and use variations in pace and tone to engage the children in the story. Somebody who is used to working with children would be best.

Tell the story:

There is a wonderful land of grass

(Choose a 'Grass' group and get them to put their arms in the air and wave gently back and forward as if in a gentle wind)

Because of the grass there are grasshoppers that eat the grass

(Choose a 'Grasshopper' group, who are to jump up and down on the spot)

Because of the grasshoppers there are spiders that eat the grasshoppers

(Choose a 'Spider' group, who hold out their arms to the sides with their fingers dangling and wriggling)

Because of the spiders there are mice that eat the spiders

(Choose a 'Mice' group and get them to put their fingers to the sides of their faces and wriggle their fingers, imitating whiskers)

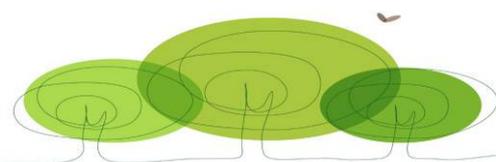
Because of the mice there is an owl that eats the mice

(The 'Owl' - the single larger child - stands centrally behind the other groups, slowly flapping his/her arms. They could stand on a chair or table, but this should be done with caution in view of how this story develops!)

So, we have grass growing in the breeze, grasshoppers jumping, spiders spinning, mice twitching and owls flapping - a land full of life.

One day a farmer comes along who wants to grow food for people to eat. So he ploughs up all the grass. What happens to our grass? It dies!

(Encourage the 'Grass' group to die. Considering they are only grass they can



be very dramatic about this! They remain where they have fallen)

Because the grass is dead there is no food for the grasshoppers. What happens to the grasshoppers? They die!

(Encourage the 'Grasshopper' group to die – if they have not already done so!)

Because the grasshoppers are dead there is no food for the spiders. What happens to the spiders? They die!

(Encourage the 'Spider' group to die – if they have not already done so!)

Because the grass is dead there is no food for the mice. What happens to the mice? They die!

(Encourage the 'Mice' group to die – if they have not already done so!)

Because the grass is dead there is no food for the owl. What happens to the owl? It dies or flies away!

(Owl normally opts to die!)

And the farmer looks at all his crops, and is sad because there is no grass waving in the breeze, no grasshoppers singing, no spiders spinning, no mice scuttling and no owl hooting – all the wildlife has gone.

He still needs to grow crops, but does he need to grow so much? He decides to let some of the land return to grass

('Grass' slowly returns to life waving in the breeze)

Because the grass is back the grasshoppers return

('Grasshoppers' resume jumping)

Because the grasshoppers are back the spiders return

('Spiders' resume their outstretched arms)

Because the spiders are back the mice return

('Mice' resume twitching their whiskers)

Because the mice are back the owl returns

(The owl resumes flapping)

Now the farmer can look around the land and see the whole place is full of life and movement, a wonderful place for both people and wildlife.

And God looked at all that he had made, and behold it was very good.

