Week 22nd June
Dangers to living things - Lesson 2
Following on from last week's science lesson, we are going to be doing more work food chains. Remind yourself of what the following words mean:
- producer
- consumer
- predator
- prey
- food chain

Task 1
In the next block of lessons, we are also going to need to use the terms herbivore, omnivore and carnivore. Remember a herbivore is an animal that only eats plants. A carnivore is an animal that only eats meat (other animals). An omnivore is an animal that eats both plants and meat.
Watch this video clip to recap the three different groups:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zxrmp39
(search for bbc bitesize – what types of food do animals eat? KS2)

In your science book write a list of animals that could go into each of these three groups. Use animals that you know about. Think about your pets, animals you see in the garden or other animals that you are an expert in.

Herbivore	Carnivore	Omnivore
Rabbit	Tiger	gulls

Which is the most popular group to be in? Why do you think this group has so many animals in? Which group would humans go in?

Task 2
As scientists, we often have to use what we know about the world around us to think about our own opinions.
Look at the following statements and think about whether you agree with them or not. If you have someone at home you can discuss these ideas with then see if they agree with you.
For each statement write 'true', 'false' or 'not sure' next to it.
1. All predators eat other animals.
2. All birds are herbivores.
3. A consumer is the same thing as a predator.
4. Prey is the name given to an animal that is eaten by other animals.
5. A top predator is the name given to a predator that lives at the top of a mountain.
6. The centipede is a predator.
7. All types of prey are carnivores.
8. All fish are prey to another animal.

9. An earthworm is a producer.

10. A starfish is a consumer.

11. All animals are consumers.

12. A food chain always has three things in.

13. The same animal can be predator and prey.

14. You can make a complete food chain using just predators.

15. You can have more than one herbivore in a food chain.

Keep your thoughts safe in your book so you can look back at them. I am not going to tell you what the correct answers are to these statements yet. Over the next few lessons, we will find out more information. It might be that you learn things that make you change your mind about what you think.

Extra task
Choose 5 of the statements and write a short explanation, with examples, as to why you agree or disagree.

Task 3
Sometimes, scientists aren't sure what an animal actually eats. How do you think scientists can find this information out? I found some information on this in a book. Read the information page below and answer the questions to show you have understood.

Dangers to Living Things

How do they know that?
If you want to know what an animal eats, you look it up. But how do scientists find out what an animal like a wild tiger eats in the first place? Tigers live in remote places and are very difficult to find and track. How could you find out what they eat?

What kind of things do you think this tiger would eat?

Bruiser is a Labrador like this dog.

Introducing Bruiser
Bruiser is a special dog. He is trained to smell out the scats of tigers and jaguars. When Bruiser has found a scat belonging to a tiger, he sits down to tell his owner he has found something.

Did you know?
Scat is another word for 'poo'. Scientists look through animals' poo to find hair and bones. This tells them what the animals have been eating.

Find out
Can you find any other ways that scientists find out what wild animals eat?

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1. Why is it difficult for scientists to know what a tiger eats?
2. What kind of dog is Bruiser?
3. What does the word scat mean?
4. What does Bruiser do when he has found a scat?
5. What do the scientists do with the scat?
6. How else could scientists find out what animals eat?

Answers

1. Why is it difficult for scientists to know what a tiger eats? *because they live in remote places and are difficult to find and track*
2. What kind of dog is Bruiser? *special labrador*
3. What does the word scat mean? *scat is another word for poo*
4. What does Bruiser do when he has found a scat? *he sits down to tell his owner he has found something*
5. What do the scientists do with the scat? *look through it to find hair or bones to tell them what the tiger has been eating*
6. How else could scientists find out what animals eat? *own ideas from: observing them, tracking them, finding partially eaten animals, studying the teeth on animals, looking in an animal's stomach if it has died.*