Mass Audubon
Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts

School Program Name:	Who Eats Who: Food Chains and Webs
Name of Sanctuary:	Stony Brook
Grade Level:	3-5
Location Options:	At sanctuary
Time:	2 hours
For more info:	stonybrook@massaudubon.org or 508-528-3140

Program Description

Learn about the complex web of life in this program about food chains. Play games and conduct activities to visually display native food chains and the effect humans have on them. Examine the skulls of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores for clues about what they eat. Finally, take a walk along Stony Brook's trails in search of animals and evidence of their roles in their food chains.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework:	Science and Technology
Strand:	Life Science
Topic:	Adaptations of Living Things Energy and Living Things

Learning Standards

Adaptations of Living Things

3-5 Life Science #6: Give examples of how inherited characteristics may change over time as adaptations to changes in the environment that enable organisms to survive, e.g., shape of beak or feet, placement of eyes on head, length of neck, shape of teeth, color.

Energy and Living Things

3-5 Life Science #11: Describe how energy derived from the sun is used by plants to produce sugars (photosynthesis) and is transferred within a food chain from producers (plants) to consumers to decomposers.

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Massachusetts Curriculum Standards

Framework: English Language Arts

Strand: Language

Topic: Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

Learning Standards

Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

3-5 Language #2: Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.

Lesson Objectives

What will students know and be able to do? These objectives must be observable and measurable.

Students will know and be able to:

- Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of three different mammals to determine if they are carnivores, herbivores, or omnivores.
- Create a food chain or web starting with an animal or plant found in Massachusetts
- Describe the flow of energy in a food chain.

Vocabulary

adaptation	herbivore	consumer
carnivore	omnivore	decomposer
habitat	producer	

Assessments

How will you know that the students have met the standards?

- Students will be able to assess whether a mammal is a carnivore, herbivore, or an omnivore by looking at the skulls of the mammals.
- Students participate in discussions and Mass Audubon Educator-prompted questions.

Summarizer

How will the Mass Audubon Educator close the lesson to see if students met the objectives?

- Students participate in discussions and Mass Audubon Educator-prompted questions.

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Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
- Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
- We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
- We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.

Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
- Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
- Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
- A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
- With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.

Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.