

DAY ELEVEN

OVERVIEW OR SUMMARY OF LESSON

Students make connections among the organisms in the game Ecosystem

On A Wall. A food web or web of life emerges. Then they explore the interconnections in their journals.

PROCEDURES

1. Have several students place all the cards in appropriate locations on the river illustration.
2. Discuss interdependency and interconnectedness with the class.
3. Divide the class into pairs and have each pair brainstorm several examples of interdependency among the organisms. Ask a volunteer to pick one connection between cards and to tape a piece of yarn between them, describing the connection to the rest of the class. Continue with this process until a web of life or food chain emerges. (Connections could be made between a producer and a consumer, a carnivore and an herbivore, a certain habitat and a bird, etc.)

1. Have students make a journal entry. The entry could be a story of the interdependency of plants, animals and their habitats; a diagram showing the food chain or web of life that has emerged; or an illustration of the river system and some of the habitats that support various organisms. However students choose to express it, their final journal entry for Day Eleven should explore the effects on interrelated species of habitat alteration or destruction.

ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Plan a field trip to the Rio Grande so that students can observe some of the plants and animals there. Interconnections can be seen first-hand, and various habitats and the life they support can be explored.

