



Food Chains

Activity: Food Chains

Category: Writing Assignment

Series: Back from the Brink (12 Birds Back from the Brink)

Supplies

Whiteboard; paper; pencil

Prep

Pick three animals that create a food chain in your area and find out how many of each animal there are in your area. Otherwise, use the example from the Peregrine falcon chapter of the book.

Directions

PART 1: People worked hard to boost the king penguin population on Macquarie Island, even though there were a lot of King penguins elsewhere. Ask students to write down, based on that section of the book, what they think would happen to the other species at Macquarie Island if the king penguins disappeared?

PART 2: Explain a food chain to the group. On a whiteboard, draw pictures of the animals you selected to demonstrate a food chain, using arrows to show hierarchy. Write the population numbers by each animal. Then erase one of the animals, and ask the students to write down what would happen to the other two if that one animal disappeared, and why would it happen? Ask them to give examples from other species featured in the book to support their position.

ADDITIONAL QUESTION: Other species of birds like to use old woodpecker holes for nesting. Ask the students to write down how they think these other birds were affected when the Red-Cockaded woodpeckers lost their habitat?

Evaluation

Was the student able to support their position with evidence and/or quotes from the text, and was the student able to compare multiple examples from the text to arrive at their conclusions? RI 4.1, 5.1, 5.3

Purpose

To help students apply what they learned in the book to similar situations.