



Bugs, Bear, Salmon!

Learning Objectives:

- Work cooperatively with peers during physical activity
- Model fair play when participating in physical activity

Vocabulary

food web or
food chain
connections
impacts

Time:

Minimum 10 minutes

Process:

1. Before going outside, explain to students that you will be playing a game outside and that they need to be dressed appropriately for the weather. Instruct students to form a group circle once they get outside.
2. Explain that the students are going to play a game that will teach them about food webs, and how animals, plants, and humans are connected.
3. Rules are as follows: There are three characters in this game – a Bug, a Bear, a Salmon. The Bears eat (chase) the Salmon, the Salmon eat (chase) the Bugs, and the Bugs eat (chase) the Bears. Demonstrate a different action for each character.
4. The group will be split into two teams and each team will have to decide which character they would like to be for that round – a Bug, a Bear, or a Salmon. (There will be many different rounds).
5. Once each team has quietly chosen their character for that round, they will line up facing each other. On the count of 1-2-3, the teams will reveal their character by doing that character's action. One team will then "eat" (chase) the other team back to their safe zone. The safe zone is a line at each end of the playing area, where teams try to run to if they are being chased. If a student gets caught they join the opposing team. Play as many rounds as you would like!
6. Note: If there is a "tie" (both teams are the same character), just say "Hi!" and then re-group to pick a new character.

Evaluation:

Evaluate students' understanding of the connections in an ecosystem by asking "What would happen if one of these animals disappeared?" This type of question can lead into discussions about human impact on ecosystems. For example, human actions are causing a loss of deer habitats and predators which is leading to a growth in urban deer populations.