



Predator vs. Prey

Introduction

In the book *Around One Log: Chipmunks, Spiders and Creepy Insiders*, author Anthony Fredericks introduces readers to the mini-habitat of a rotting log and all of the creatures that inhabit the log. In this activity, students will choose a predator-prey pair and create a poster that describes survival techniques used by both.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Poster Board
- ◆ Art Supplies
- ◆ *Around One Log: Chipmunks, Spiders and Creepy Insiders* - by Anthony Fredericks

Key Concepts

- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)
- ◆ Organisms' patterns of behavior relate directly to the environment.
- ◆ Organisms can cause changes.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. After reading *Around One Log: Chipmunks, Spiders and Creepy Insiders*, divide the class in half. Designate one half of the class as "predators" and the other half as "prey."
2. Pair each "predator" with a "prey" and have the two students decide which animals from the book they will portray.
3. Encourage the pair to construct a poster on the life of a forest predator trying to catch its prey and the prey's attempt at escape.
4. Encourage the students to use both illustrations and descriptions in their posters.
5. Have each pair stand before the class and present their poster. Ask each one to describe their animal's actions and attempts at survival.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to imagine that they are in a forest. What types of plants or animals do they see? What are some of the geographical or geological features in that forest? Invite students to assemble a "forest information book" that could be distributed to local travel agencies, other classes in the school, or community organizations.

Additional Resources

Defense mechanisms commonly used by animals:

- ◆ **Speed** - rabbits can outrun a fox or zig and zag to confuse a predator
- ◆ **Camouflage** - animals blend in with their environments to avoid being detected
- ◆ **Trickery** - False features that appear to be enormous eyes or appendages can serve to dissuade potential predators
- ◆ **Physical Features** - A turtles hard shell or a porcupines sharp quills
- ◆ **Chemical Features** - skunks not so pleasant smell or a dart frogs poison