

Who Eats What? Producers, Consumers, and Decomposers!

Materials Needed:

- Pictures or small toys of plants (flowers, grass, trees), animals (rabbit, bird, lion), and decomposers (mushrooms, worms, bacteria drawing)
- Three containers or paper plates labeled "Producer", "Consumer", "Decomposer"
- Crayons or markers
- Paper
- Optional: A simple picture book about food chains or nature roles

Lesson Activities:

1. **Introduction (What Do Living Things Need?):** Start by asking: "What do you need to live and grow?" (Food, water, air, sun). Explain that all living things need energy, and they get it in different ways.
2. **Meet the Producers:** Introduce "Producers." Explain that producers are like chefs! They make their own food using sunlight, water, and air. Plants are producers! Show pictures of plants. Ask: "Can you name some plants?" Have the student draw a picture of their favorite plant (a producer).
3. **Meet the Consumers:** Introduce "Consumers." Explain that consumers can't make their own food, so they need to EAT other living things. Animals are consumers! Show pictures of animals. Explain there are different types: herbivores (eat plants), carnivores (eat other animals), and omnivores (eat both). Ask: "What does a rabbit eat?" (Producer - plant). "What might eat the rabbit?" (Consumer - fox). Have the student draw an animal (a consumer) eating something.
4. **Meet the Decomposers:** Introduce "Decomposers." Explain that decomposers are like nature's recyclers! They eat dead plants and animals and turn them back into tiny bits that help the soil. Show pictures of mushrooms, worms, or talk about tiny bacteria we can't see. Explain they are very important for cleaning up and helping new plants grow. Have the student draw a mushroom or a worm (a decomposer).
5. **Sorting Game:** Place the three labeled containers/plates out. Mix up the pictures/toys of producers, consumers, and decomposers. Ask the student to sort them into the correct category, explaining their choice (e.g., "The flower makes its own food, so it's a producer.", "The Kookaburra eats worms, so it's a consumer.", "The mushroom breaks down old logs, so it's a decomposer.").
6. **Wrap-up & Story (Optional):** Briefly review the three roles. Ask: "Who makes the food?" (Producers!). "Who eats the food?" (Consumers!). "Who cleans up?" (Decomposers!). If you have a book, read it together, pointing out the different roles.
7. **Nature Walk (Extension):** Go outside and look for examples of producers (trees, grass, flowers), consumers (birds, insects, squirrels), and decomposers (mushrooms, rotting logs, worms under rocks).