

# Who Eats What? A Fun Look at Animal Diets!

**Grade Level:** 3

**Subject:** Science/Environmental Science

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## Lesson Activities:

### 1. Introduction: What's for Dinner? (5 mins)

Start with a fun discussion! Ask the student: "What did you eat for breakfast or lunch today?" Then transition: "Just like us, animals need to eat to get energy! But do all animals eat the same things? What do you think a lion eats? What about a rabbit?"

### 2. Meet the Eaters! (10 mins)

Introduce the three main types of animal diets. Use simple language and show animal pictures as examples:

- **Herbivores:** These animals eat ONLY plants! (Show pictures of grass, leaves, berries). "Think of animals like cows munching on grass, or rabbits nibbling lettuce. Can you think of another plant-eater?" (Examples: Deer, Elephant, Horse, Snail)
- **Carnivores:** These animals eat ONLY other animals (meat)! (Show pictures of meat, fish, insects). "Think of lions hunting, or eagles catching fish. They are meat-eaters! Can you think of another meat-eater?" (Examples: Wolf, Shark, Spider, Owl)
- **Omnivores:** These animals eat BOTH plants AND animals! (Show pictures of plants and meat). "These animals aren't picky! They might eat berries one day and insects the next. Bears are omnivores, and so are we humans! Can you think of another animal that eats both?" (Examples: Pig, Chicken, Raccoon, Mouse)

Write the definitions simply on the whiteboard/paper.

### 3. Sorting Game: Diet Detectives! (15 mins)

Spread out the animal pictures/flashcards (or use toy animals). Have the student act as a 'Diet Detective' and sort each animal into the correct labeled container/area ("Herbivore", "Carnivore", "Omnivore"). Discuss their choices: "Why did you put the bear in the omnivore bin? What does it eat?" Offer gentle corrections if needed.

### 4. Food Chain Fun! (10 mins)

Explain that energy passes from one living thing to another when it gets eaten. This is called a food chain!

- Start simple: "Plants get energy from the sun (they are Producers!)." (Draw a sun and a plant).
  - "An animal that eats plants, like a rabbit (a herbivore), gets energy from the plant." (Draw an arrow from the plant to a rabbit). "The rabbit is a Primary Consumer."
  - "An animal that eats the rabbit, like a fox (a carnivore), gets energy from the rabbit." (Draw an arrow from the rabbit to a fox). "The fox is a Secondary Consumer."
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Draw a simple chain on the board: Sun -> Grass -> Rabbit -> Fox. Explain the arrows show the direction energy flows.

### 5. Build Your Own Chain (Optional Activity - 10 mins)

Using animal and food pictures/drawings, have the student create their own simple food chain. Ask them to explain it.

### 6. Why Does it Matter? (5 mins)

Discuss briefly why having different types of eaters is important for nature. "What would happen if there were only plant-eaters? (Not enough plants!). What if there were only meat-eaters? (They'd run out of food!). Everything is connected and needs to be in balance."

### 7. Wrap-up & Review (5 mins)

Quick review questions:

- "What do we call an animal that only eats plants?" (Herbivore)
- "What about one that only eats meat?" (Carnivore)
- "And one that eats both?" (Omnivore)
- "Can you name one animal for each type?"

Optional: Have the student draw their favorite animal and what it eats.

### Differentiation/Extension:

- **Support:** Focus only on herbivore/carnivore first, then introduce omnivore. Use very common animals. Provide more prompts during sorting.
- **Challenge:** Introduce terms like 'Producer', 'Primary Consumer', 'Secondary Consumer'. Discuss more complex food chains or simple food webs. Research an animal's specific diet online. Go on a nature walk to look for evidence of animal diets (nibbled leaves, insects, etc.).