Program Overview

Year 7
Half day program
AM Session - 9.00 am - 11.30 am &
PM Session - 12.00 pm – 2.30 pm

Big Idea
Food webs and food chains can be used to represent energy flow in natural systems and the relationships that exist between organisms living in an environment.

Curriculum Links
Science

Overview
In this half-day program, students conduct field studies to investigate the Bunyaville Conservation Park pond and open forest ecosystems to:

- Understand that organisms in an ecosystem are tied together by their need for energy.
- Survey organisms in an aquatic environment and use an appropriate key to aid in the identification of animal species.
- Examine interactions occurring between species and the flow of energy within a forest habitat.
- Develop food chains and food webs from first-hand data collected at Bunyaville Conservation Park.
- Explore issues related to human impacts in the park and the effect that they have on the relationships between organisms in an environment.
- Recognise that events that affect one species in an ecosystem will have either positive or negative effects on the other organisms in its food chain/food web.
Program Overview

Activity 1 - Ponding
Guided by the Classroom teacher, students net for macroinvertebrates in one of the Bunyaville Conservation Park's ponds or dams, identifying the animals collected and what they eat (and what they are eaten by) using a dichotomous key and/or the iPad App – *Freshwater Macro Invertebrates*. Following this activity, students will understand that:

- Appropriate keys can be used to aid in the identification and classification of animal species.
- Producers and consumers (herbivores and carnivores) are present within the pond ecosystem and their relationships with each other can be shown by food chains and food webs.

Activity 2 – Forest Food Chains
In this activity, students will be taken by a Bunyaville teacher into an area of the open forest ecosystem. Here students will collect data about the numbers and types of organisms present in the forest habitat (i.e. evidence of producers, primary consumers and secondary consumers will be counted) and they will also be given an opportunity to construct food chains and a food web from examples of Bunyaville Conservation Park’s fauna and flora species. Following this activity, students will understand that:

- When organisms eat other organisms energy is transferred and the transfer of energy along a food chain can be represented by an ecological pyramid.
- There is a reduction in energy as you move through each feeding (trophic) level in an ecosystem.
- Human impact on one species within a forest ecosystem can have positive or negative impacts on other organisms in a food web.

Curriculum Links