

# Predator Prey



Audubon Center  
of the North Woods

**Purpose:** Students will experience life as the hunter and the hunted through a variety of games that demonstrate life as predator or prey. Staying alive on any level of the food chain is no easy task. Students become aware of the adaptations that are necessary for animals to have in order to survive!

## Concepts:

- Predators are “the hunters.” They hunt for and eat smaller animals, or prey.
- A food chain is the pattern and cycle of eating within an ecosystem.
- An animal’s behavior will tell you a lot about it lives and survives within its habitat.
- Adaptations are characteristics or physical features that help an animal to survive in its environment.

## Learning Outcomes: *Students will be able to*

- Define predator and prey
- Design a simple food chain
- Evaluate the effectiveness of some adaptations in predator/prey relationships
- Interpret their experience being either a predator or prey in an intense game and relate it to animals in the wild
- Infer the physical and behavioral adaptations of a live animal through observation and analysis

## Minnesota Academic Standards:

5.4.1.1.1 Describe how plant and animal structures and their functions provide an advantage for survival in a given natural system.

7.4.2.1.2: Compare and contrast predator/prey, parasite/host and producer/consumer/decomposer relationships.

8.3.4.1.2 Recognize that land and water use practices can affect natural processes and that natural processes interfere and interact with human systems.

**REVISOR:** AMANDA ALLEN 2009

**CLASS LENGTH:** K-3, 1 ½ HR 4-8, 3 HR

**AGES:** GRADES K-8

**SEASON:** F, W, SP, S

**GROUP SIZE:** 10-20 students

**SAFETY:** Distance to be traveled is of medium ability, ¼ to one mile. Predator prey is a class that can be adapted by the instructor to fit most needs and abilities.

**MATERIALS:** White board and markers, *Predator Prey activity*; Rubber bands (yellow, blue, pink), Armbands (blue), Orange vests, Cardboard cards (Herbivores, Omnivores, and Carnivores), laminated instruction sheet, *Quick Frozen Critters*, Food tokens, Orange vests, bandanas or something you can use as flags

**CLASS PREP: (20 MIN)** Organize all indoors materials inside the classroom. Cut cardboard squares if there is not enough left over from the last class. It might be wise to get the rubber bands organized before class – time saver. Have a live animal ready to show the students.

## CLASS OUTLINE:

### I. Introduction (10 min)

### II. Class Experiences

- a. Producers, Consumers and Decomposers (10 min)
- b. Food Chain (20 min)
- c. Pit Game (15 min, optional)
- d. Winter Food Chain Game (15 min, winter only)
- e. Oh Deer! (20 min.)
- f. Consumer and Producer Survival Game- older students only (30 min.)
- g. Quick Frozen Critters (30 min. optional)