

**All Things are Bound Together.
All Things Connect.**

Chief Seattle

The earth is a community made up of members including water, animals, plants, people, soil and air. Each member functions together for the well being of all. What happens to one affects another, which affects another, and so on. As Chief Seattle points out: “all things connect.”

LETS PLAY THE WEB OF LIFE GAME!

Begin by forming a circle. Have somebody take a ball of string and stand inside the circle next to the identity of a specific component in nature. For example, the leader may say, “Who can name a plant that grows in our area?”

Someone may say, “grass”

Leader: “Ok, Ms. Grass, hold the end of the string. What eats grass?”

Someone says: “A rabbit!”

Leader: “Now Mr. Rabbit, you can hold the string here”. (The child is now holding the string that is attached to the first student.)

Leader: “Who will need Mr. Rabbit for their lunch?”

And so forth. Each participant holds onto a section of the string as all things begin to connect. Don't forget to introduce elements such as water, humans, soil, and other plants and animals. Now each child is strung together in the “web of life”.

To demonstrate how every member is important to the community, present a typical scenario which would remove one of the members. For example, a grassy meadow is replaced by a shopping mall. The grass then tugs on the string that is attached to whatever is dependent on it to survive, such as the rabbit. Each member tugs in succession as they are affected until the whole circle is influenced by the pulling of the string. We soon learn that all things truly are connected!

Note: This activity was taken from “Webbing” in Joseph Cornell's book entitled “Sharing Nature with Children”.

We highly recommend this book for teachers and parents who want to help young people connect with their natural world.