

2011 Year 5 — Literacy preparation

Reading magazine

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Energy from food

All living things need food. Food provides the **nutrients** that they need to build and repair themselves. Food also provides **energy**. Animals and plants use energy to grow, breathe, move — to do the things that help them survive.

Almost all energy on earth comes from sunlight. Green plants trap and store some of the sun's energy and turn it into food. Plants are the only living things that can make their own food using sunlight. When an animal eats a plant, some of the stored energy from the sunlight is passed on to that animal. When another animal eats this first animal, energy is passed up the food chain.

Energy lost along the way

The plants at the beginning of every food chain store a lot of energy. However, much of it is lost as it passes from one living thing to another. A herbivore's body absorbs only a small part of the energy stored in the plants it eats. When a carnivore eats a herbivore, it absorbs only a small amount of the energy from that meal.

Pyramid of energy

The diagram below shows the levels in the food chain. There are many plants on the pyramid's base because sunlight provides plenty of the energy plants need to survive. Fewer herbivores can survive than plants because energy is lost as it passes along the food chain. Even fewer carnivores can survive on the small amount of energy available at the top of the pyramid.

Energy use is shown as a pyramid because there are more living things at the bottom than the top.

The Bully Asleep

One afternoon, when grassy
Scents through the classroom crept,
Bill Craddock laid his head
Down on his desk, and slept.

The children came round him:
Jimmy, Roger, and Jane;
They lifted his head timidly
And let it sink again.

Bill, he's gone sound asleep, Miss,'
Jimmy Adair,
Stays up all the night, you see;
Other doesn't care.'

Way from him, children,
Frets stooped to see,
Asleep; go on
Writing, and let him be.'

'Chance!' whispered Jimmy;
Dug Bill's pen and hid it
In the desk, hard;
So did it.'

With rubbish —
Chalk,'
Jane
Talk.

Sharks need protecting too

Our prejudices against animals that we fear often outweigh our respect for the moral obligation to care for all creatures. Take for instance the shark. Commonly feared as killers, many shark species are themselves in danger of extinction due to the malicious practices of some humans.

Shark finning is a significant cause of the rapid and massive decline of these magnificent creatures from our oceans. Each year, an estimated 100 million sharks are slaughtered due to this merciless practice. The numbers of some species have dropped by 90% over the past few decades.

The barbaric practice of chopping off the sharks' fins, often while the sharks are still alive, and then throwing the doomed creatures back into the ocean, is a cruel and senseless act. Sharks must keep moving to breathe. Without fins they cannot swim, so they sink to the bottom of the ocean. There they die a painful death by suffocating or being eaten alive by other fish.

Shark finning is able to thrive because the sale of shark fins is a highly profitable commercial venture. Those who kill the sharks do so for the profit gained from the sale of the fins. Used in soups and other dishes, they command high prices. Shark flesh can also be sold but is far less than from selling just fins. To sell the whole shark, fishermen must carry the bulky shark carcasses back to shore, thus reducing the quantity of fins they can transport. So the fishermen leave the sharks defenceless and dying in the water as they speed away in order to sell the valuable fins.

It is time we will crusade to save cute animals like seal pups from the same fate but people are less inclined to want to save man-eaters. Clubbing a seal to death and leaving a shark to die after it has lost its fins are both acts of brutality. Both need to be stopped if we want our oceans to be considered really humane.

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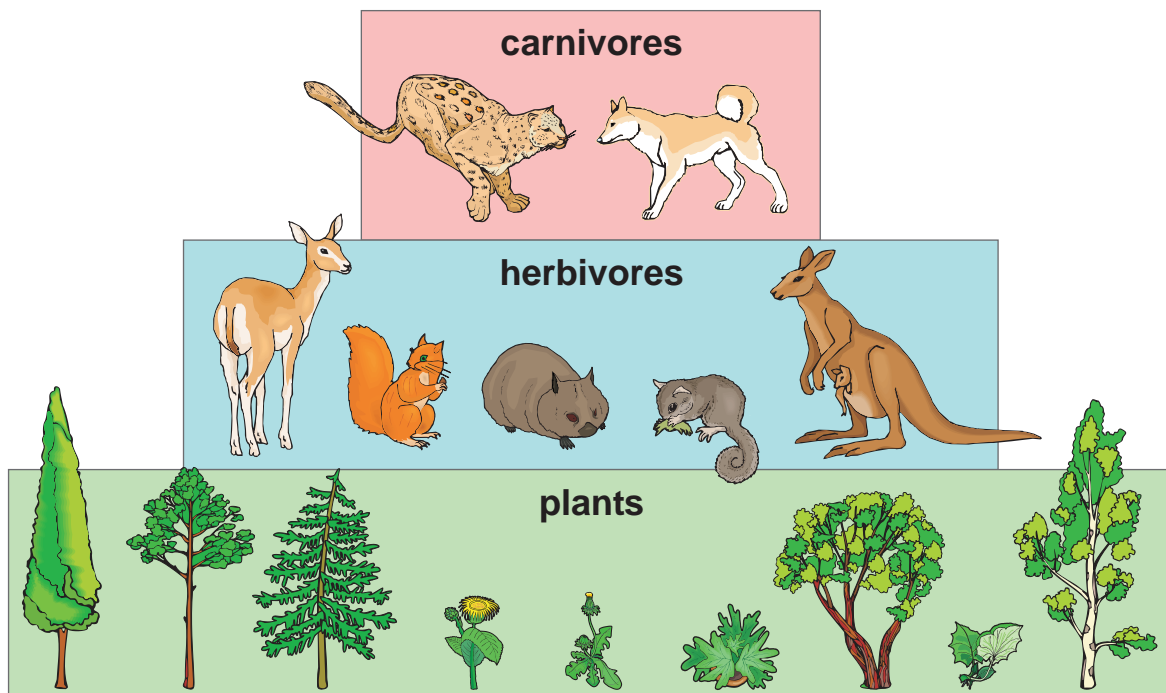
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Down on his desk, and slept.

The children came round him:
Jimmy, Roger, and Jane;
They lifted his head timidly
And let it sink again.

'Look, he's gone sound asleep, Miss,'
Said Jimmy Adair;
'He stays up all the night, you see;
His mother doesn't care.'

'Stand away from him, children.'
Miss Andrews stooped to see.
'Yes, he's asleep; go on
With your writing, and let him be.'

'Now's a good chance!' whispered Jimmy;
And he snatched Bill's pen and hid it.
'Kick him under the desk, hard;
He won't know who did it.'

'Fill all his pockets with rubbish —
'Paper, apple-cores, chalk.'
So they plotted, while Jane
Sat wide-eyed at their talk.

Not caring, not hearing,
Bill Craddock he slept on;
Lips parted, eyes closed —
Their cruelty gone.


'Stick him with pins!' muttered Roger.
'Ink down his neck!' said Jim.
But Jane, tearful and foolish,
Wanted to comfort him.

John Walsh



http://www.sharksneedprotecting.org Search

Sharks need protecting too



Our prejudices against animals that we fear often outweigh our respect for the moral obligation to care for all creatures. Take for instance the shark. Commonly feared as killers, many shark species are themselves in danger of extinction due to the malicious practices of some humans.

Find out more

5 Shark finning is a significant cause of the rapid and massive disappearance of these magnificent creatures from our oceans. Each year, over 100 million sharks are slaughtered due to this merciless practice. The numbers of some species have dropped by 90% over the last 20 years.

Join the Shark Crusaders

10 Finning is the barbaric practice of chopping off the sharks' fins, often while they are still alive, and then throwing the doomed creatures back into the sea. Sharks must keep moving to breathe. Without fins they cannot swim, so they sink to the bottom of the ocean. There they die an agonising death by suffocating or being eaten alive by other fish.

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15 This cruel practice is able to thrive because the sale of shark fins is a highly profitable commercial venture. Those who kill the sharks do so for the huge profit gained from the sale of the fins. Used in soups and medicines, they command high prices. Shark flesh can also be sold but the profits are far less than from selling just fins. To sell the whole shark, fishermen must carry the bulky shark carcasses back to shore, thus reducing the quantity of fins they can transport. So the fishermen leave the definned sharks defenceless and dying in the water as they speed back to shore in order to sell the valuable fins.

20

25 Many people will crusade to save cute animals like seal pups from inhumane acts but people are less inclined to want to save man-eaters like sharks. Clubbing a seal to death and leaving a shark to die after hacking off its fins are both acts of brutality. Both need to be stopped if the human race is to be considered really humane.

You can help!

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Acknowledgments

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