**What is a food chain?**

1. **Background**
   - Biodiversity means ‘variety of life’ and can be measured as the number of different things in an area, and the quantities of each. Biodiversity is important because all living things play an important role in their environments. A wide variety of organisms are necessary to maintain a healthy ecosystem as most organisms are dependent on – or at least affected by – each other. The interconnections between creatures create a complex web of who eats who.

2. **Set the Scene**
   - Introduce the idea of a food chain using sun, grass, cow, human. Ask, where does the grass get its energy to grow? Continue to link each element. Show children images of seaweed, herring, cod, dolphin and orca. Ask, ‘Who eats who?’ Create a food chain to show connections. Ask what the seaweed eats – compare to plants. Explain that seaweed gets its energy from the sun. Add to the food chain.

3. **Resources**
   - Worksheet: Food Chains, Food Webs gallery and interactive game

4. **Investigate**
   - Explain that everything in our ocean is connected in food chains and that these join to make a food web. Use interactive food web game on IWB. Discuss the interconnections between all animals. Ask children what they think would happen if one animal died out? Ask if anyone knows what ‘extinct’ means. What about if a particular animal population grew? Introduce the terms threatened and endangered. Ask, does it matter if an animal becomes extinct?

5. **Apply**
   - Use Food Chains to demonstrate building a food chain from the selected animals. Emphasise that mostly, the larger animals eat the smaller. Children may work in pairs. They can then create their own food chain and explain the connections to demonstrate their understanding.

6. **Extend**
   - Use the interactive game in the Food Webs section to build a marine food web.

7. **Reflect**
   - In groups, children to discuss the following statements: Animals’ habitats are important. All animals need protecting. People can take as many fish from the sea as they like.
Food chains 1

What to do...
1. Cut out each of the plants/animals.
2. Starting with the sun, arrange them into a food chain.
3. Stick them into place below.

Seaweed
Sun
Crab
Cuttlefish
Periwinkle

Cut along dotted lines

Stick here → Stick here → Stick here → Stick here → Stick here
What to do...
1. Cut out each of the plants/animals.
2. Starting with the sun, arrange them into a food chain.
3. Stick them into place below.

Cut along dotted lines

Phytoplankton  Sun  Barnacles  Blenny  Zooplankton
Food chains 3

What to do...
1. Cut out each of the plants/animals.
2. Starting with the sun, arrange them into a food chain.
3. Stick them into place below.

Cut along dotted lines

Prawn  Sun  Phytoplankton  Anemone  Zooplankton  Seaslug
Food chains 4

**What to do...**
1. Cut out each of the plants/animals.
2. Starting with the sun, arrange them into a food chain.
3. Stick them into place below.

**Seaweed**  
**Sun**  
**Dog whelk**  
**Limpets**  
**Crab**

*Cut along dotted lines*