



KS3 Living things in their environment
Classroom-based activity

It's only a game

Food chains are a fact of life and are likely to exist for life on alien worlds too. Despite our best intentions, nature is always red in tooth and claw. But if big teeth and sharp claws make a top predator why is the sabre-toothed tiger not the dominant species on our planet?

Ask the children to discuss and identify the key elements of a food chain. Predation, competition for resources and changes to habitat should all be considered as should the Darwinian notion of “survival of the fittest” – the survival of those best fitted to their environment.

Having established the key elements of a food chain, challenge the children to create board games based on the conclusions they have reached. Essentially a form of Snakes & Ladders, the game should reflect the tenuous nature of life at any point on the chain.

Once constructed, the games can be laminated and used later for revision and consolidation purposes.