



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Nature's Recyclers

K-3 Classroom Activities

Mighty Macros

OBJECTIVE

Students will be able to identify three macro invertebrates that are part of the food web found in a compost pile. Students will be able to sort animals into herbivores and carnivores.

ACTION

1. Begin the class discussion by asking students to name some "bugs." Answers may include snails, flies, spiders, pillbugs, beetles, bees, etc. Ask students if they know what these animals eat. Although many different answers may follow, it's important students understand these "bugs" are alive and they must eat to live just like people.
2. Show enlarged pictures of animals on the Mighty Macros Funcards (or if you have photos from books). Identify each animal.
3. Distribute cut-out cards to students. Students may play the card game at their desks or by sitting in a circle on the floor.

Ask students to hold the cards in their hands. When you (the teacher) identify an animal, the students should place the corresponding animal card in front of them on the desk or floor. To make the game an elimination game, explain that the last student to put down the correct card is "out." Students putting down incorrect cards are also "out."

4. After playing the card game, have students spread out all the cards on their desks or on the floor. Can students guess who eats plants (herbivores)? (snails, earthworms, millipedes, pill bugs, ants). Who eats other animals (carnivores)? (centipedes eat small red worms, spiders, and insect larva; spiders eat other insects; beetles eat other insects, snails, and slugs; ants can also eat other dead animals and insects).
5. Have students mixed up their cards, then sort into two piles, those animals that eat plants and those that eat other animals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following animals, from top left to right, are on the Marco Funcards:

First row: centipede, beetle

Second row: snail, ant

Third row: spider, worm

Fourth row: millipede, pill bug

MATERIALS

For each student:

- copies of cards

For teacher:

- enlarged copies of cards



In passive composting, grass and bush clippings along with soil and other material is placed on top of the bin. As the material sinks to the bottom, pill bugs, worms, millipedes along with bacteria and fungus help decompose the plants into a "mulch." When the compost bin door at the bottom is lifted, the finished mulch falls out. This fertile, nutrient-rich mulch is then spread around the garden.



Mighty Macros Funcards

