

FOOD WEBS

CURRICULUM LINKS:

- SC4-LIV-01 – explains the role and interactions of living things in ecosystems, including food chains and food webs
- SC4-LIV-02 – analyses how structural and behavioural adaptations increase an organism's chances of survival in its environment
- SC4-NAT-01 – explains how scientific understanding is used to predict and respond to changes in ecosystems and biodiversity
- SC4-DAT-01 – collects, processes and analyses data to identify patterns, trends and relationships in scientific investigations
- SC4-PQU-01 – uses scientific inquiry to pose questions, plan investigations and evaluate evidence



**STAGE 4
WORKSHEETS**

WILD KIDS

SECTION 1

Match It!

Draw a line to match each term to its correct definition.

Omnivore

Breaks down the bodies of dead organisms

Carnivore

Eats meat

Herbivore

Eats plant matter

Scavenger

Eats plants and meat

Decomposer

Eats dead or dying organisms

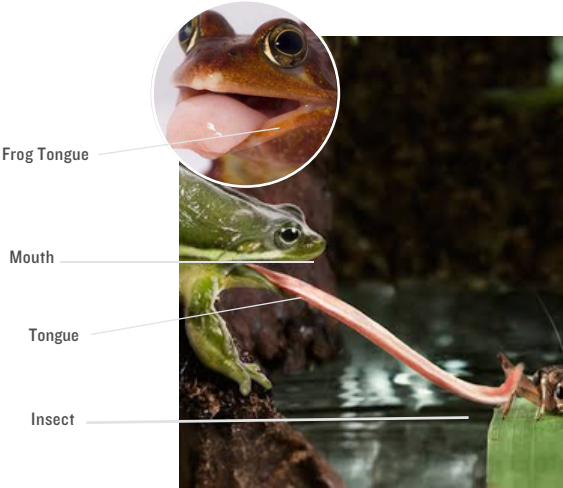
SECTION 2

How we eat!

Frogs have long, sticky tongues that can shoot out very quickly to catch insects and other small prey. This special adaptation helps frogs capture food before it can escape.

What other animals can you see in the zoo that use their mouths, beaks, teeth or tongues to capture food?

Fill in the table below as you explore the zoo.



Animal	Uses tongue to capture food?	Type of food they eat
Frog	Yes	Insects and other small animals

WILD KIDS

SECTION 3

Plants in the ecosystem

Plants play a vital role in any ecosystem, just like the Daintree Rainforest, there are hundreds of different varieties that call this tropical rainforest home.

Match the name of the plant to the adaptations it uses to survive this environment. Also, circle any plants that you can spot in the Daintree exhibit at the zoo.

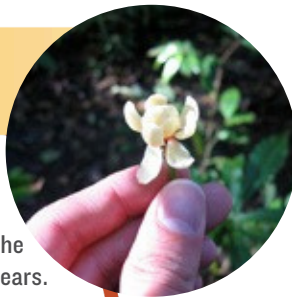
Idiot Fruit

(*Idiospermum australiense*)

The Ribbonwood, commonly known as the Idiot Fruit, is one of the rarest and most primitive flowering plants in the world, dating back more than 110 million years.

These huge trees hold large brown fruits and the seed is highly poisonous, making this one of the few fruits that no rainforest bird or animal can tolerate.

The tree's only seed dispersal method is gravity. Therefore, distribution is limited.



Epiphytes

Epiphytes are fascinating Daintree Rainforest plants that survive without roots in the ground. They can also trap nutrients and store their own water.

Epiphytes are often supported by host plants. They can even grow so large that they can no longer support their own weight, causing them to crash down to the forest floor.

They come in various forms, including *Drynaria Rigidula*, Bird's Nest Fern, Basket Fern and Northern Elkhorn Fern.

One of the most important epiphytes in this rainforest is the mighty Basket Fern. Ferns such as these can create their own ecosystems with many life forms using them as a home. Some frogs will even spend much of their life in the canopy, never reaching the ground.



WILD KIDS



SECTION 3 CONTINUED

Noah's Satinash

(*Syzygium maraca*)

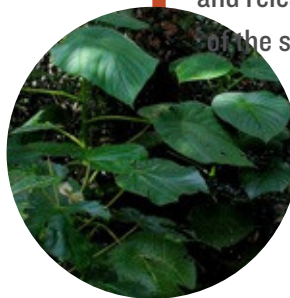


There are dozens of Ginger species found in North East Queensland and they are endemic to the region. These Daintree Rainforest plants are prized as ornamental plants and can be used in flower arrangements. Species such as the Native or Common Ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*) and the Snow Ginger (*Alpinia arctiflora*) also bear fruits that are favoured by the Cassowary.

Photo: G.Sankowsky

Stinging Tree

This is a tree to be avoided at all costs. The large oval or heart-shaped leaves may look harmless but they are covered with thick microscopic hairs made of mineral silica – the chief constituent of glass. If you brush against these hair-like tips, they penetrate the skin, break off and release a poison irritant. The effects of the sting can be severe and may last for months.



Fan Palm



These spectacular palms are endemic to the lowland rainforests of Far North Queensland. They are slow growing and have strict requirements; a warm, shady position, with plenty of moisture. Swampy areas often become dominated by Fan Palm Gallery Forests, which shade out other light-loving species.



WILD KIDS

SECTION 4

Apex predators

After completing your tour, answer the following questions about crocodiles.

1. What does the term Apex Predator mean?

2. Why is a crocodile considered to be an apex predator?

3. What does a crocodile eat?

4. List two physical and two behavioural adaptations that help crocodiles capture their prey.

5. Why might the crocodile in this exhibit not eat the other animals that also live in this enclosure?

6. What are some threats that are impacting crocodiles?

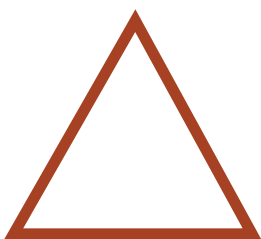
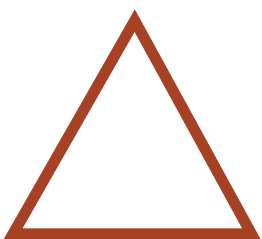
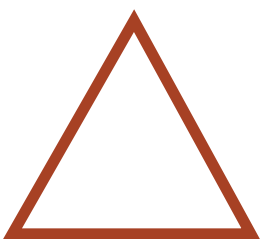
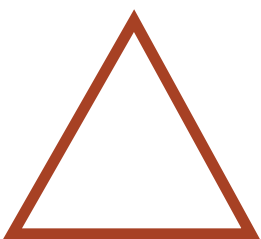
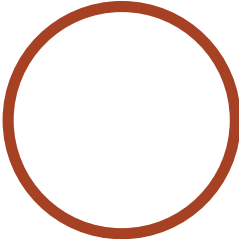
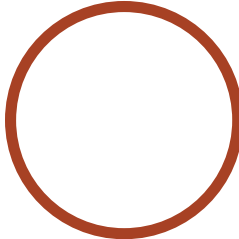
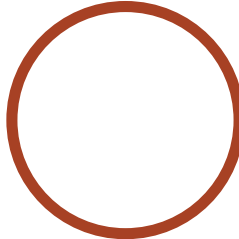
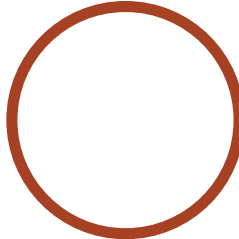
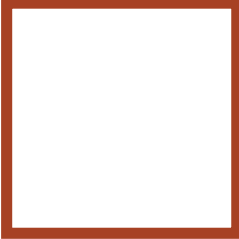
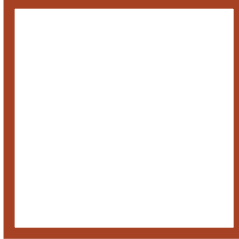
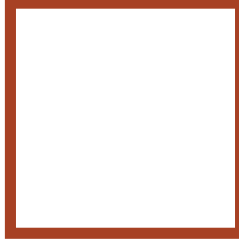
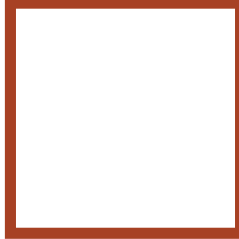


WILD KIDS

SECTION 5

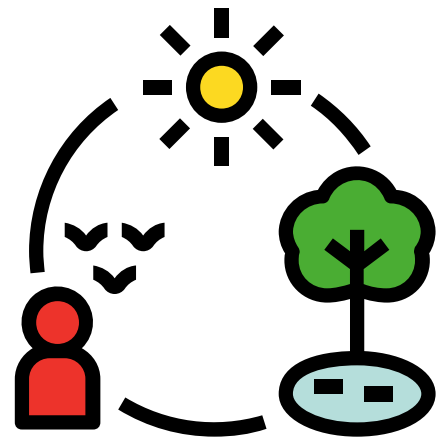
Food chain

Based on your journey throughout the zoo, create a food chain representing some of the animals and plants you have seen today. Draw pictures of animals and plants in the space provided to show the order of who eats whom.



WILD KIDS



SECTION 6

Impacts

There are many factors that place significant stress on ecosystems. Drought and deforestation are just some examples of both natural and human impacts that can lead to animals and plants becoming endangered or extinct.

1. List 3 other impacts that can affect the food chain?

2. What are some things we can do to help prevent or minimise the impacts on wildlife?

3. What does WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo do to help protect Australian wildlife?

