

Grades: intermediate

Daisy's Education Barns

Before your visit:

*Read several books about cows and discuss the information with the students.

*Introduce and define vocabulary: cow, cattle, bull, heifer, calf, bovine, mammal, fur, udder, cud, herbivore, carnivore, and omnivore.

*Brainstorm facts about herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores and have students pair up and make a list of animals or mammals for each of the three categories on a three column chart. Share the results by making a whole group three column chart.

*Discuss the food chain/food web and the importance of cows for the survival of animals of all types. Create a food web that includes how cows contribute by providing dairy products, beef, and fertilizer for plants.

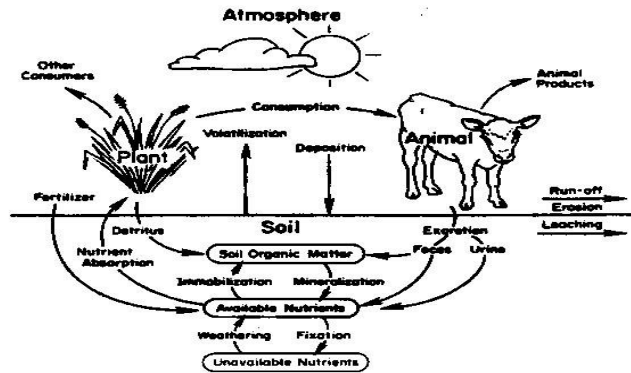


Figure 1.3. Simplified illustration of nutrient cycling within ecological systems. Nutrients move from their respective reservoirs within the abiotic component of the system, into the biotic component, and back into the environment in a cyclic pattern (after Wilkinson and Lowery 1973).

*Sing the song "Wild Thing" to the same tune as the song "Wild Thing."

"Wild Thing"

Chorus: Wild thing!

You make my heart sing.
You make everything groovy.
Wild Thing!

Wild thing, I think you must be a deer
But I wanna know for sure!
Eating leaves and berries in the forest
Because you are a herbivore! **(CHORUS)**

Wild Thing, I think you must be a mountain lion
But I wanna know for sure!
Eating rabbits and deer in the forest
Because you are a carnivore! **(CHORUS)**

Wild thing, I think you must be a coyote
But I wanna know for sure!
Eating plants and animals in the forest
Because you are an omnivore! **(CHORUS)**

Wild thing, I think you must be a bat
But I wanna know for sure!
Eating moths and mosquitos in the nighttime
Because you're an insectivore! **(CHORUS)**

*Brainstorm things we make with milk (cheese, cottage cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream)

During your visit:

*Look at the cows. How are they alike/different?

*Do you see the cows eating? What do they eat? Are cows herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores?

*Can you see the cow's teeth? Are they flat or pointed? Compare and contrast your teeth with the cow's teeth.

*Watch a cow being milked. Do you think it would be hard work to take care of a dairy cow? Why or why not?

After your visit:

*Discuss the dairy cows that you saw at Fairview Farms.

*Write a ten to twelve sentence paragraph explaining how cows are important to the food webs of humans.

*Discuss the eggs, chicks, and hens that you saw at Fairview Farms.

*Write a three paragraph opinion/persuasive essay. If you were a farmer, would you rather be a chicken farmer or a dairy farmer? The prompt is included.

Books About Cows:

Food Chain Frenzy (Magic School Bus #17) by Anne Capeci

Food Webs: Who Eats What? by Claire Llewellyn

Milk: From Cow to Carton by Alikei

The Milk Makers by Gail Gibbons

What are Food Chains and Webs? by Bobbie Kalman