Food Web Activity

Introduction

A food web is a diagram that shows how food chains are linked together into more complex feeding relationships. Organisms in a food web can have multiple food sources and more than one predator. This means that the organisms in a food web can occupy more than one trophic level. As food webs show interactions between organisms, they can be used to predict the impact of introduced species.

Aim

To represent feeding relationships in a community and demonstrate the impact of an alien species

Method

1. Go to website: https://mynewbyte.com and choose Food Webs lab (needs a school subscription)
2. Select 10 organisms (include plants but not rabbits) and use the information to build a food web
3. Click on the model option and observe the population numbers over a 10-year period
4. Add rabbits to the food web (establishing all possible links) and run the model for another 10 years

Results

Draw the food web (without the rabbits) in the space below – try to prevent arrows from crossing over

Discussion

1. Explain why it was important to include plants within the constructed food web

2. List all the tertiary order consumers within the constructed food web

3. Explain why secondary consumer numbers would be lower than the primary consumer numbers

4. Describe the impact of introducing rabbits into the web and provide justifications for any changes