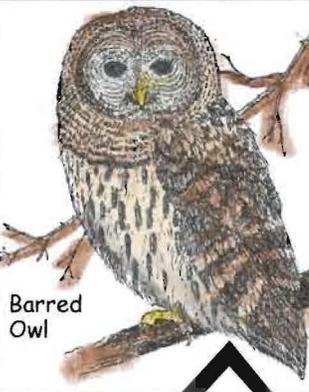
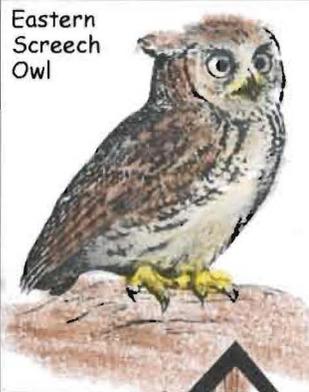
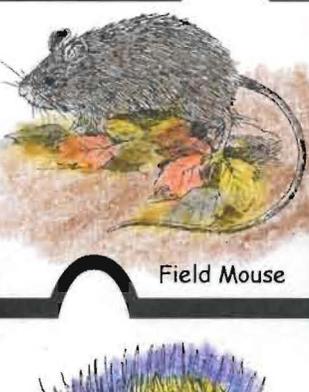
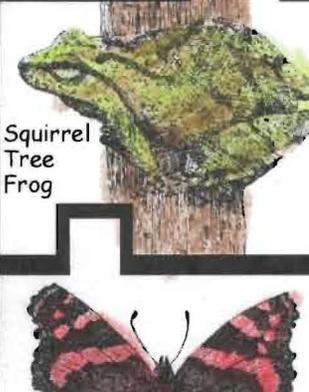
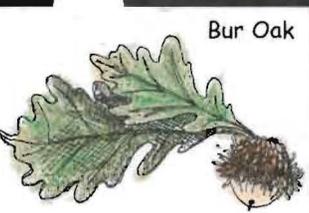
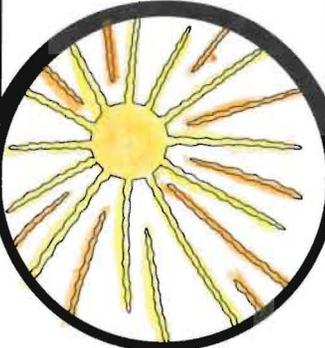
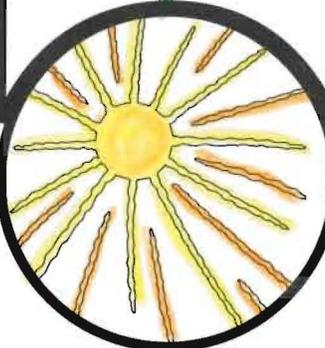
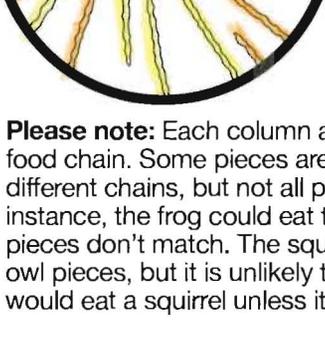
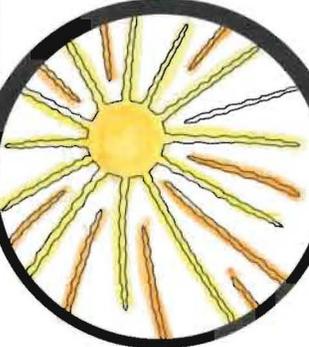


**Directions:** Copy the **Food Chain Puzzles** onto card stock and cut them out. Color and laminate the pieces, if desired. Place one or more puzzles at a station (see note below). As children explore the puzzles, engage them in a conversation about how the pieces fit together and what the puzzle represents—a food chain. **Quick Facts:** Food chains trace the path of energy from one living thing to the next. Most food chains begin with energy from the sun. Plants turn energy from the sun into food energy. Animals that eat plants get food energy from them. When they are eaten by other animals, the food energy moves “up” the chain, and so on from one animal to the next. There are some animals, including large owls, that eat other animals, but are not eaten themselves. They are considered to be at the “top” of the food chain.

 Great Horned Owl	 Barn Owl	 Barred Owl	 Eastern Screech Owl
 Gray Squirrel	 Field Mouse	 Garter Snake	 Squirrel Tree Frog
 Bur Oak	 Thistle	 Garden Spider	 Red Admiral
		 Honey Bee	 Aster
		 Purple Coneflower	

**Please note:** Each column above represents a possible food chain. Some pieces are interchangeable among different chains, but not all pieces will fit perfectly. For instance, the frog could eat the spider, but the tabs on the pieces don't match. The squirrel piece will fit with all of the owl pieces, but it is unlikely that a screech owl (upper right) would eat a squirrel unless it's a baby squirrel.