

Madame Squirrel's Restaurant Puppet Show

Essential Question:

How does the food production department affect me?

At a Glance:

Learners will also be introduced to basic food chains by watching a puppet show about Madame Squirrel's Restaurant and animals who eat on their school site.

Background Information:

See Background Information for Garden Earth – Food Production Department

Getting Ready:

Decide who will perform the puppet show. Will it be the learners, the teachers, or a classroom volunteer? Two puppeteers will be needed for this puppet show. One puppeteer will perform Madame Squirrel while the other will perform Foreco and all of the other puppets.

Print templates for the puppets on card stock; color and laminate them. Set up a simple stage for performing the show. Assemble props as needed.

Procedure:

1. Assemble the learners in front of the puppet stage. Tell the learners that Madame Squirrel would like to visit and tell them all about the restaurant that she runs in the forest.
2. Perform the puppet show.

Discussion/Assessment:

Who visited Madame Squirrel's Restaurant?
What did they eat?
What is a food chain?
Do we visit Madame Squirrel's Restaurant?
How do humans affect her Restaurant?



Madame Squirrel's Restaurant is spread throughout the fields and forests of Earth.

Location: Puppet theater

Objectives: *Learners will*

- 1) discover basic food chains through a puppet show.
- 2) describe four predator-prey relationships.

Skills: communication, listening, empathy, analysis

Supplies:

- **Script:** *Madame Squirrel's Restaurant*
- **Puppets**
 - Foreco
 - Madame Squirrel
 - Beatrice Bat
 - Sir Owl
 - George Gecko
 - Mr. Fox
 - Suzanne Bird
 - Bertha Bee
 - Charlotte Spider
 - Sol the Sun
- **Props**
 - Madame Squirrel's food basket
 - grasshoppers and insects
 - a "dead animal" puppet
 - a large spider web with an insect caught in it
 - flowers on the stage

Subjects: language arts, science

Time: 15 minutes

Madame Squirrel's Restaurant

SCRIPT

Madame Squirrel - Well good morning boys and girls. Welcome to my restaurant. I am so proud of all the delicious food my restaurant serves and all the hard labor that workers do to prepare it. Actually, my restaurant is spread throughout the forests, meadows, and gardens of earth! Let's go over here and see what is being served. (*Beatrice Bat enters and flies around catching mosquitoes*) Hello Beatrice Bat, I don't usually see you here in the morning, could you please tell these children what you are having for breakfast?

Beatrice Bat - Oh I had a rough night Madame Squirrel. You are right. I don't usually eat breakfast; I usually eat all night long! But this morning I decided to stay up late and I'm eating my favorite meal - mosquitoes!!! (*swoops and catches mosquitoes*) They are simply delicious, but I have to eat 1,000s of them to satisfy my appetite so I better get back to eating. (*exits*)

Madame Squirrel - Well, do enjoy your breakfast, Beatrice! (*Sir Owl enters*) Oh hello, Sir Owl, you usually feast at night too. Did you just finish your meal?

Sir Owl – Yes, Madame Squirrel. And what a fine breakfast it was. I just treated myself to a yummy mole. Poor thing never saw me coming. You know with my keen eyesight, remarkable hearing, and silent flight, I am quite talented at being a Bird of Prey.

Madame Squirrel (*interrupts; talking to the kids*) – That means he hunts other living things for food. (*to Sir Owl*) Please go on...tell the kids how you digest your prey.

Sir Owl – Well, I swallow my food whole. You know us owls can't chew. Then the food goes to the first of my two-part stomach. This is where most of the digestion occurs. Then the food goes to the second part, called the gizzard. Here, the bones, fur, and feathers – all the indigestible stuff – is filtered out. The soft parts move the rest of my digestive system and are excreted later. But the neat part is all the stuff left in my gizzard. All the bones, fur, and feathers are compressed into a pellet and travel back up to the first part of my stomach. And in a few hours, I'll regurgitate, that means throw up, the pellet. I hear that scientists pick these pellets apart to study what us owls eat.

Madame Squirrel – Wow! Isn't that interesting? Thanks, Sir Owl. Toodle –Ooh!
(*George Gecko enters*) Good morning George Gecko, can you tell the children what it is you are eating?

George Gecko - Sure, I'm eating some marvelous grasshoppers, they are one of my favorites. I really like flies and cockroaches too. Your restaurant certainly satisfies my taste. Perhaps the children would like to try some?!

Madame Squirrel – (*Laughing*) Oh that's generous of you George Gecko. While my restaurant serves things for every taste, I don't think the children would find that very appetizing! (*George exits*) Would you children?

Well let's look at what's being served over here. (*Place a small stuffed animal or puppet on the stage and Mr. Fox enters*) Hello Mr. Fox. What are you eating today?

Mr. Fox - Oh you know me and my little mammals - nothing like a delicious mammal for breakfast. I like my food raw. Cooking and seasonings add nothing to the rich natural flavor of a chipmunk or other small animal. (*exits chewing loudly*)

Madame Squirrel - As I said, there is something for every taste. (*Suzanne bird enters*) Oh there is Suzanne Bird, lets ask her what she is eating. Hi Suzanne, so what is on the menu that you like this morning?

Suzanne - Oh I just love these berries! There are so many delicious berries at this time of year Madame Squirrel. I really like the tasty seeds from the trees and grasses as well. Thank you and all your workers for all your hard work.

Madame Squirrel – No problem at all. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you, Suzanne. (*Bertha Bee enters*) Hello, Bertha Bee. Are you enjoying your breakfast?

Bertha Bee - (*Putting her head in a flower, Slurp, Slurp*) But of course! There's nothing finer than sweet, delicious nectar fresh from garden flowers! (*Slurp, Slurp*) Mmmmm, that was tasty. I better get back to work, bye. (*exits*)

Madame Squirrel – Bye! That Bertha Bee is always so busy, busy, busy! Charlotte Spider, how lovely to see you. (*Charlotte Spider enters*) What's on your plate?

Charlotte Spider – (*Climbing in her web to the cockroach*) Oh, I love squirting enzymes into cockroaches and eating out their insides. Oh, such a delicacy! (*exits*)

Madame Squirrel – Lovely. Ah, I find my work so rewarding! (*Sol enters*) Boys and Girls, there is Sol, the sun. Let's thank him for his work. Sol, green plants are the top producers in my Department, and they couldn't do any work if it wasn't for you. Your energy is the most important ingredient in all my food and the base of all food chains.

Sol - Good Day Madame Squirrel. It's always good to see you. You work so hard and help so many creatures. I am glad to assist you with your food preparation. I really must go now as day is just beginning, and many green plants need my solar energy. Good bye. (*exits*)

Madame Squirrel - Good bye Sol and thank you again. Boys and girls, what do you like to eat? (*pause for answers*) Oh you have very good taste. Please come back and visit my restaurant again. Good bye for now.