



FOOD WEBS ACTIVITY: FOOD WEBS AND DISTURBANCES

INTRODUCTION

In the previous Food Webs activities, you built food chains and webs using species found in Gorongosa National Park in order to understand their relationships. In this activity, you will construct a food web using species that you observed in photos from the WildCam Gorongosa website and use the field guide to research the relationships between those species. You will then introduce a disturbance to determine its impacts on the food web.

PROCEDURE

Part 1: Use WildCam Gorongosa to collect data on species

1. Sign in to WildCam Gorongosa and go to the Start page
<http://www.wildcamgorongosa.org/#/classify>
2. Classify images until you have identified six unique animal species. For each species, use the field guide to find out what they eat and what species prey upon them. List your findings in the table below:

Species	Diet (i.e., what they eat)	Predators (i.e., what eats them)



WildCam Gorongosa

Part 2: Construct a Food Web

1. Using the six species that you listed above, begin constructing a food web below by drawing arrows between species. Then, use the information on their diet and predators to fill in any gaps to create a complete food web. For each species, you can simply select one or two diet and predator items from the table above. For plants, list the entire plant (e.g., trees, shrubs, grass) rather than plant parts (e.g., tubers, roots, fruit, leaves).



Part 3: Introduce a Disturbance

1. Mozambique was engulfed in war from 1977 until 1992. Many of the large animal species in Gorongosa National Park were killed. Using the information in the card below, predict how the war may have directly or indirectly impacted each species in your food web. In your food chain diagram on the previous page, draw a “minus” sign next to each species that you think would be negatively impacted by the war and a “plus” sign next to each species that you think would be positively impacted.

War

A civil war raged from 1977 to 1992 in the Gorongosa region. Battles, violent raids on villages, and massacres occurred throughout the country, including in the park and around Mount Gorongosa. Soldiers and farmers decimated the populations of large animals, like lion, elephant, zebra, buffalo, and wildebeest, destroying their habitat and hunting them for food.



War

2. Examine your food web and state whether the war had an overall positive, negative, or neutral effect on each of the following trophic levels:

Trophic Level	Overall Effect of War
Primary Producers	
Primary Consumers	
Secondary Consumers	
Tertiary Consumers	