

## Web of Life

Imagine that you are no longer in the classroom, but outside in the sunshine, surrounded by the smells and sounds of a forest. Imagine that you are becoming the part of the forest pictured on your nametag.

I'm going to read a story about this forest, which shows how important each member of the forest is to all the other members. As I tell about your part of the forest, I will pass a ball of yarn to you. Take hold of the yarn, then give the ball back to me so I can pass it to the next person.

Don't let go of your part of the yarn, but hold it down on the floor so I can walk around inside the circle and pass the yarn to the next person.

*Don't read: Each time you come to a word in bold type in the story, pass the ball of yarn to the child who is that character.*

### Web of Life

Our forest community grows healthy and strong with the light of the **SUN**.

All of the creatures in the forest depend on this energy. It keeps them all warm, and helps the plants to grow. The tall, beautiful **TREES** that stretch from the ground to the sky look to the Sun to give them strength.

*Don't read: With older students, explain the complementary nature of people inhaling oxygen and exhaling carbon dioxide, and plants taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen.*

Rain has just stopped falling in the forest and has given every thirsty thing a big drink of **WATER**. The air is cool from the afternoon rain. This **AIR** is what the forest breathes. Take a deep breath. We all need the Sun, water, and air.

The forest is full of life. A colorful **BIRD** sings from the branches of one of the trees and looks around on the ground below for food. It spots a **WORM** moving around on the forest floor that will make a perfect lunch.

The worm crawls down into the dirt and eats the leaves that have fallen from the trees. Thanks to this working worm, the **SOIL** of the forest is clean and good for plants to grow in. An **ANT** has made its home in the soil and also in the bark of the tree.

A **FLOWER** has sprouted from its seed in the ground and waves its petals in the wind. Its roots

find food in the soil. This flower has been waiting for the busy **BEE** to buzz by and leave the pollen that helps it make the seeds for next year's flowers.

*Don't read: With older students, elaborate on the concept of pollination and explain that the flowers depend on the bee for this process.*

The roots of this flower and the plants on the forest floor dig deep into the soil of the Earth. One **PLANT** is getting warm from rays of sunlight coming through the trees. The raindrops have dried on its leaves. This healthy plant is food for the **RABBIT** who hops by, ready to take a bite of its green leaves. A **FOX** watches the fuzzy rabbit from behind a log, keeping an eye on its food for the day.

Suddenly, the fox hears a loud sound, and runs off to hide behind the trees. Two **PEOPLE** are walking through the forest. They are picking plants and flowers as they walk. They are happy to be in the woods where the air is cool and the animals play. From way up in the branches of the tree, the bluebird sings its welcome song. They stop for a moment to enjoy this special place, and then they walk on.

*Don't read: Each child in the circle is now holding part of the yarn, ending with the two people who have entered into the forest community. Ask the class to stand up, being careful not to let go of their part of the yarn.*

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