

Science as Inquiry

Of Dibbles, Dinks, Woks, and Dorgs

Create a balanced energy pyramid. It takes five of anything to feed the next higher organism for one day. Dibbles eat dorgs; woks eat dinks. Dibbles don't eat woks or dinks directly.

Draw a numbers pyramid to indicate the producer, consumer (herbivore), secondary consumer (primary carnivore), and tertiary consumer (predator) as well as how many of them will be necessary to feed one dibble for one day.

Use the materials at your work station to create the numbers pyramid.

1. Why is this called a pyramid of numbers?
2. What would happen if there was a sudden increase in the number of dibbles?
3. What would happen if there weren't enough dorgs?
4. Who would be affected if dinks disappeared? Justify your answer.
5. Draw a pyramid of numbers that shows a system out of balance with too many predators. Explain what might happen to the rest of the organisms.