



UNTAMED S2E4: Lead

Classroom Activity

This classroom activity is designed to be used as a resource that inspires conversation, critical thinking, and promotes a “big picture” understanding of topics covered in each episode. Questions may be answered individually, or out loud in a group setting. Key terms and vocabulary that will help educators and students engage in discussion include:

[Lead, toxic, poisoning, food chain, niche, consequences, primary/secondary injuries]

Group Size: any

Classroom materials needed: none

Preparation: print images

Time: 20-30 minutes

Instructions:

To better understand the idea of lead traveling through a food chain, guide your class through this activity. Beforehand, print out five or more images of wildlife that would share a habitat in your region. For example: White-tailed deer, squirrels, vultures, Wild Turkeys, coyotes and Bald Eagles. Species that are native to your area will enhance real-world connections for students. Additionally, print out some images of (or representations of) lead ammunition.

As a group, have your students arrange the images of your chosen species to create a realistic food chain or food web. Next, have your students discuss what animals might come into contact with the lead ammunition, and in what ways.

Encourage your students to consider secondary and tertiary interactions; for example, if a scavenger such as a vulture feeds on multiple contaminated deer carcasses, is it at a higher risk for lead poisoning compared to other animals in your food chain?

Conclude with a brainstorming discussion on how students think this issue could be solved. Be sure to acknowledge and consider the perspectives of multiple groups of people who spend time in the outdoors, including hunters, fishermen, and recreationists.