

Rays of Sunshine Activity

By Roger Barker

Grades 3-6

In this activity students will learn that all living things on Earth get their energy from the sun.

Materials:

- Product cards
- Animal cards
- Plant cards
- Poster of the Sun

Procedure:

Post the Sun poster on a wall in the room. Divide the students into 3 groups (Products, Animals, and Plants). Give each student one card that corresponds to their assigned category. Randomly pick a student from the Products group who will stand in the middle of the room. The students from the other groups must follow the energy back to the Sun.

For example: Let's say the product is a fried egg. The student with the chicken card will stand between the egg and the Sun. The student with the corn card will stand between the chicken and the Sun.

The students that have made up the energy chain must explain to the class why they are there and what their function is.

For example: The student with the corn might say "I am corn. I get my energy from the sun using a process called photosynthesis". The next student may say "I am a chicken. I get my energy from the corn which gets its energy from the sun".

This continues until all members of the chain have spoken. The teacher then selects another product and the process is repeated.

Once everyone has had a turn, students should go to their group or partner and discuss how the energy is transferred from the sun to an organism then to other organisms.

Suggested questions:

1. What do all of these have in common?
 - a. The Sun provides all energy
2. Can you trace the origin of an organism's energy?
 - a. Yes, it will always be the Sun
3. Are there non-living things that use the Sun?
 - a. Yes, We can make electricity from the Sun.

Products

Corn



Pencil



Hamburger



Desk



Boots



Gasoline

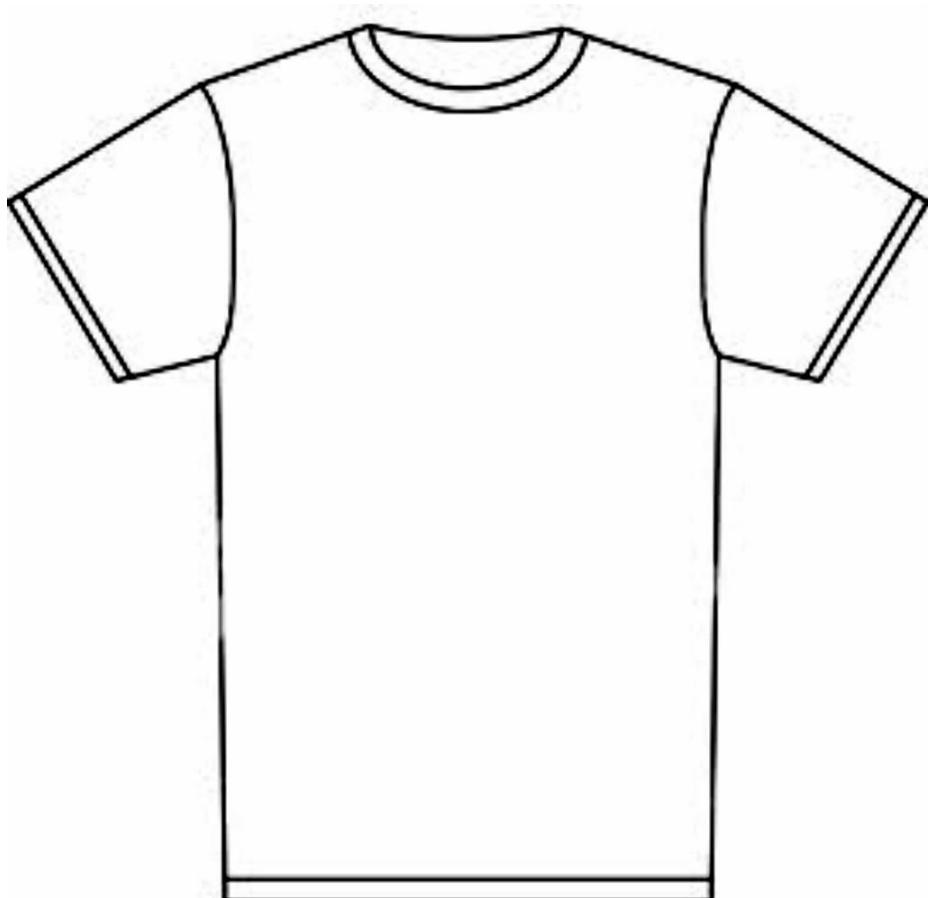


Electricity



phillipmartin.info

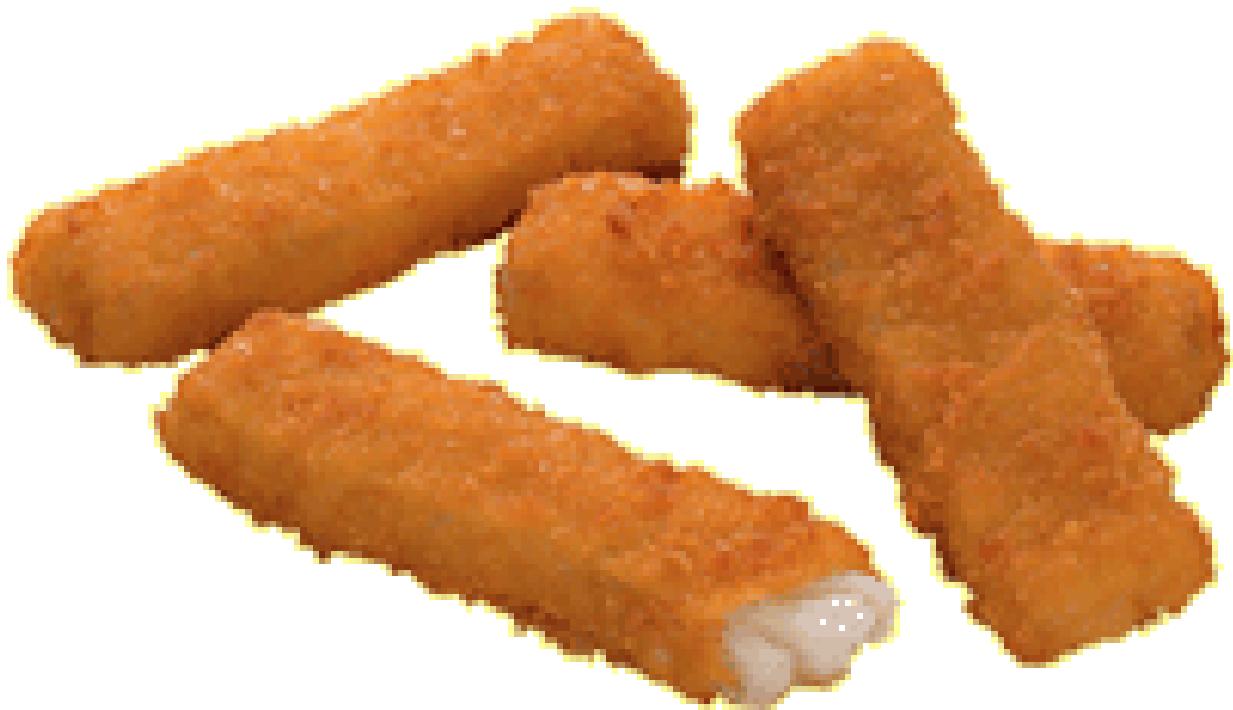
Shirt



Lion

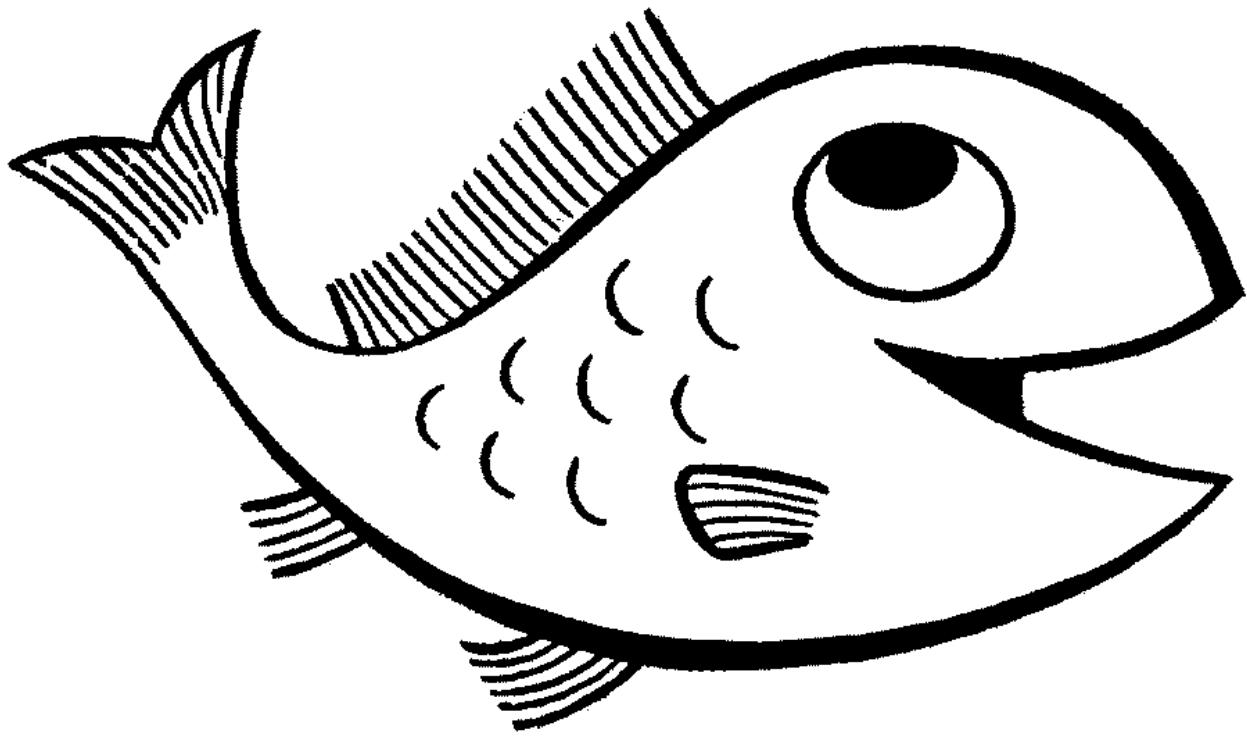


Fish Sticks

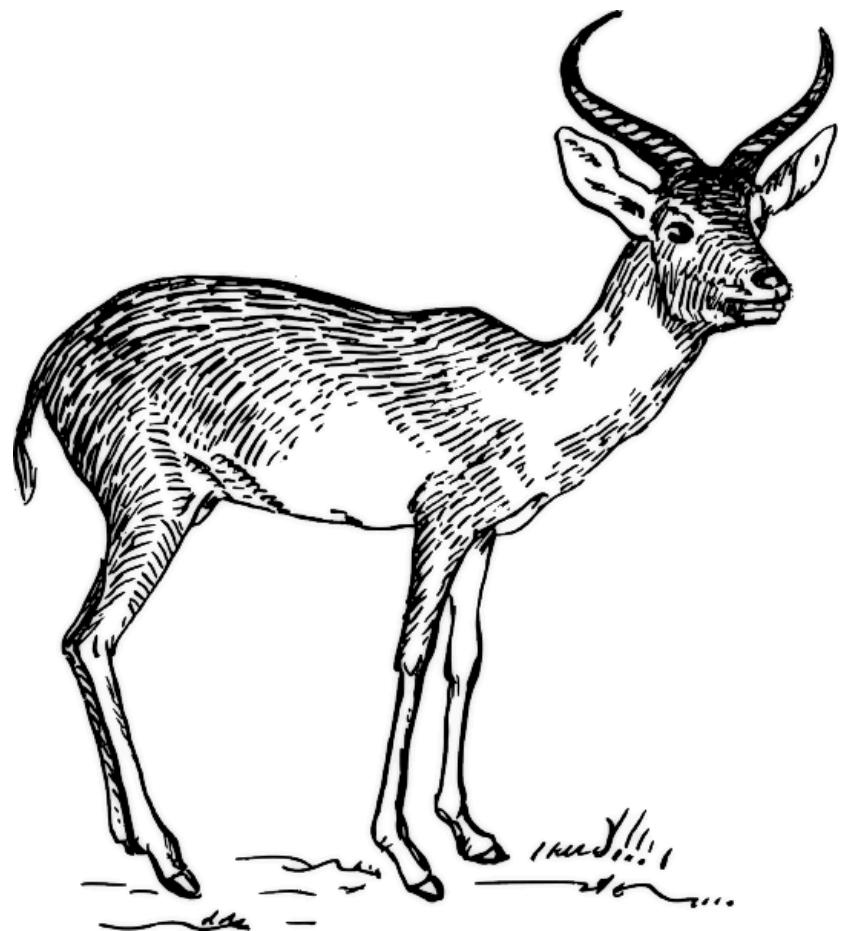


Animals

Fish



Gazelle



Cotton



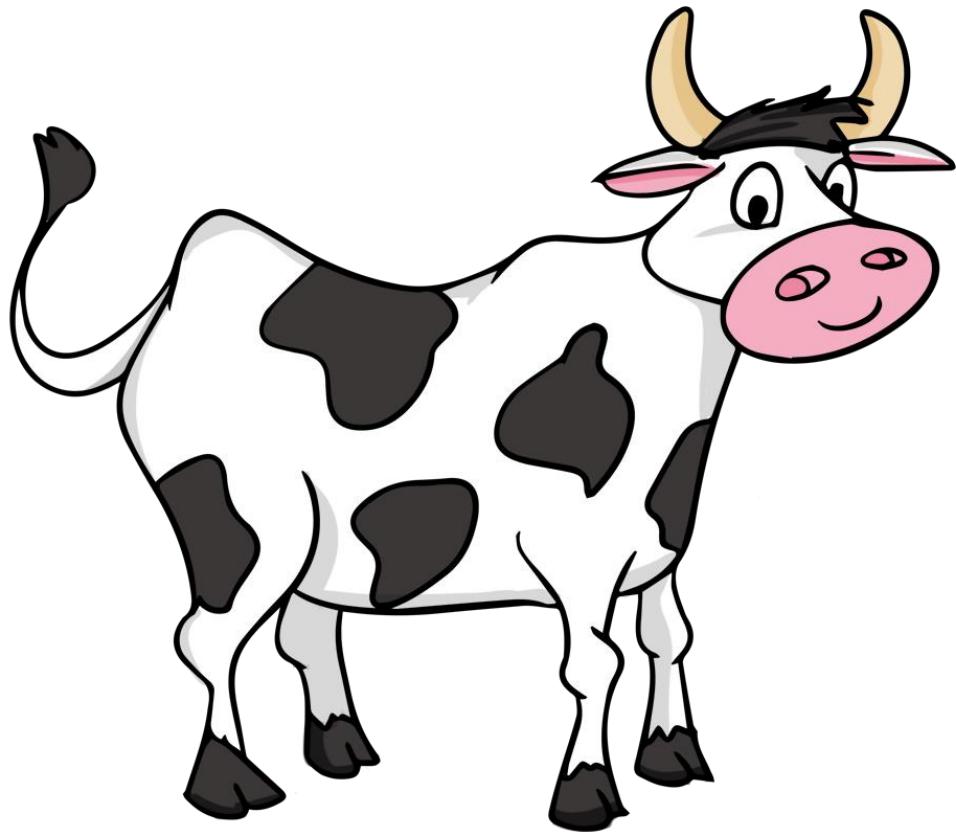
Photovoltaic Cell



Oil



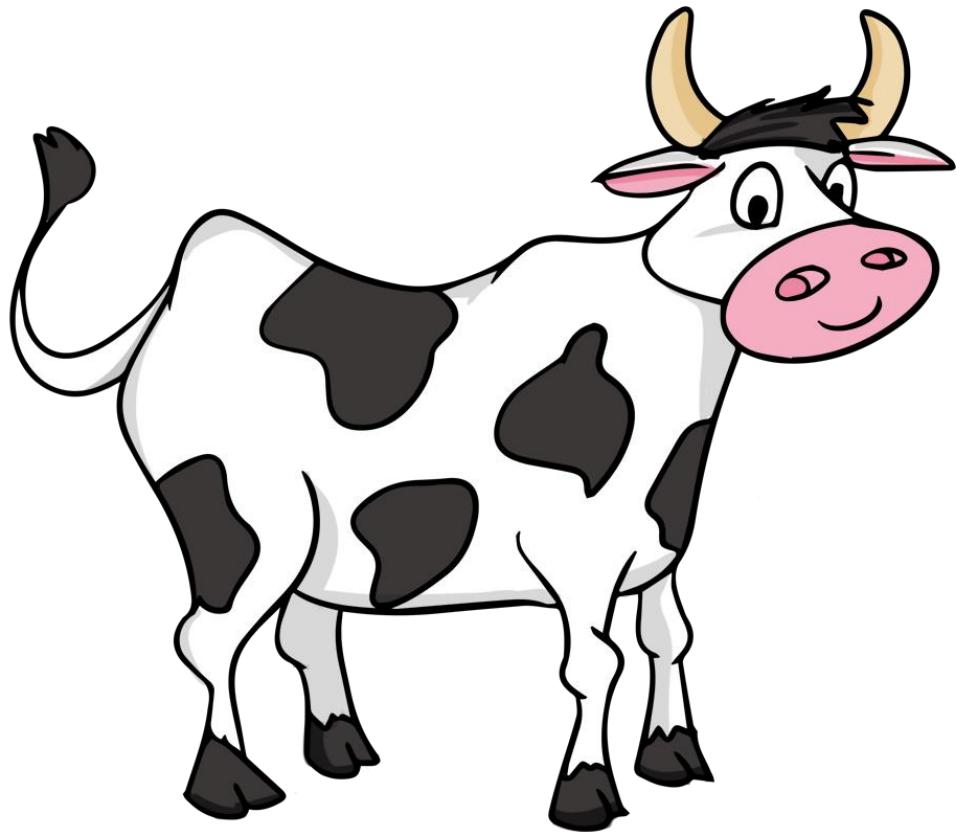
Cow



Carpenter



Cow



Tree

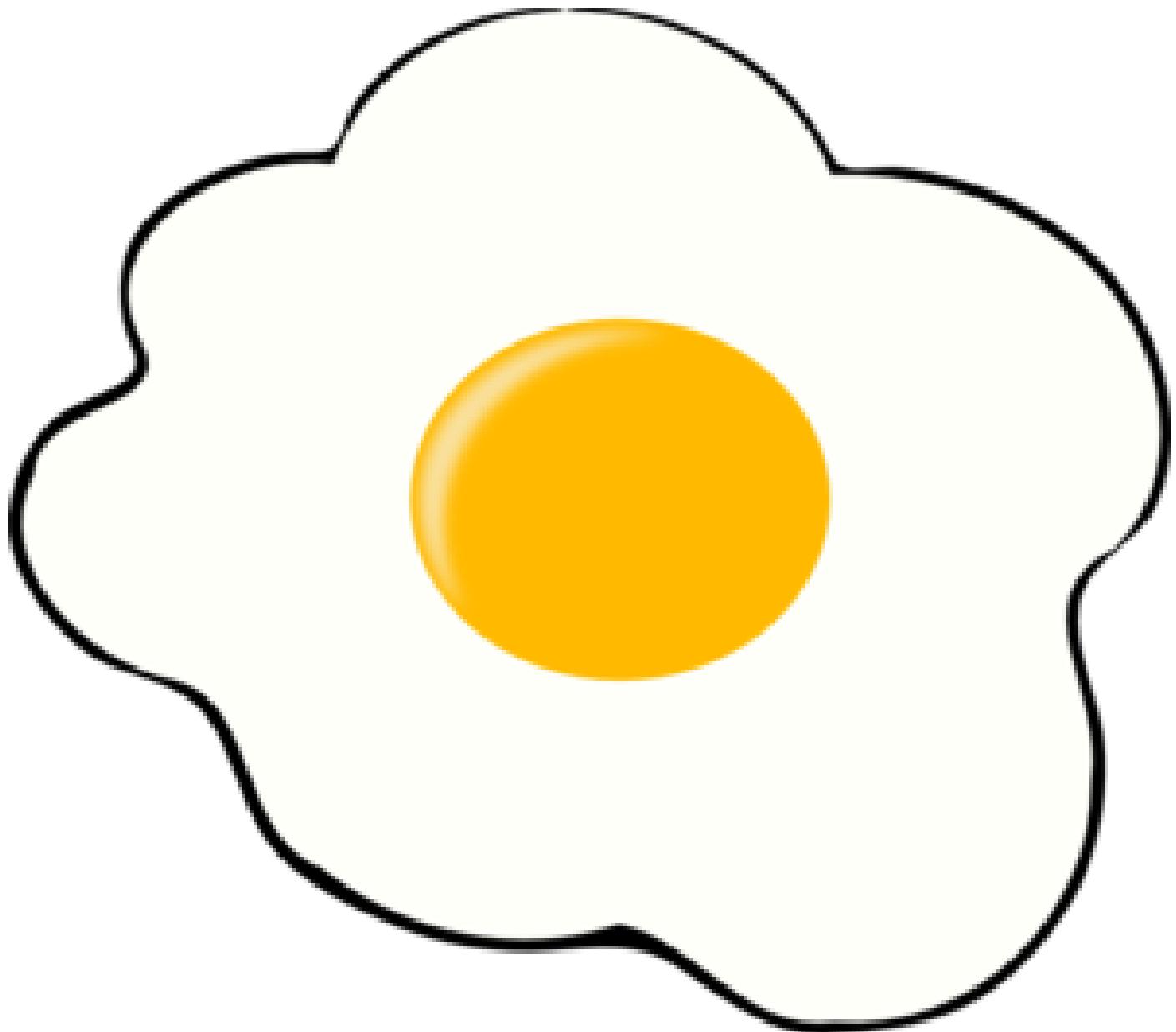


Chicken

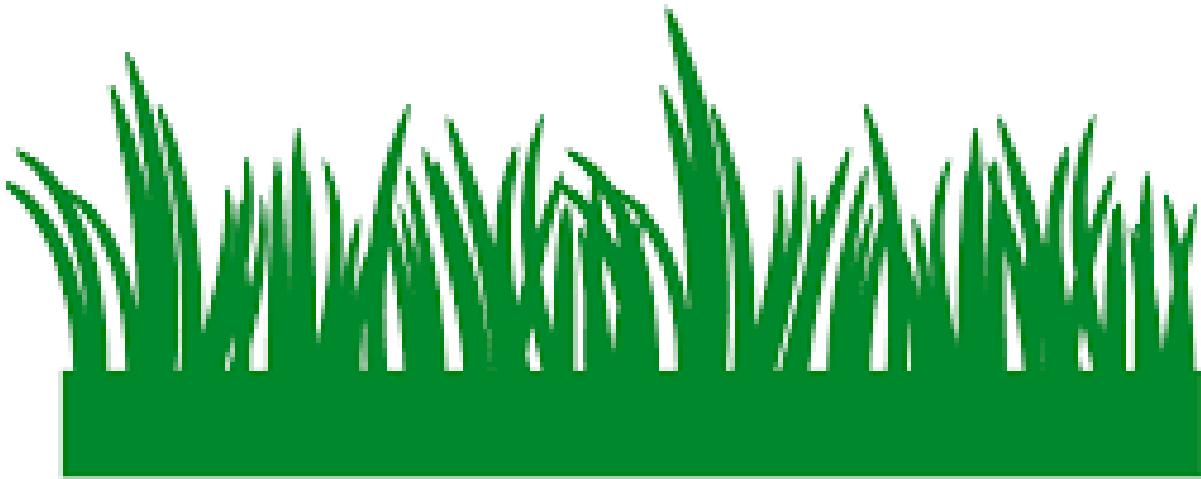


Plant

Egg



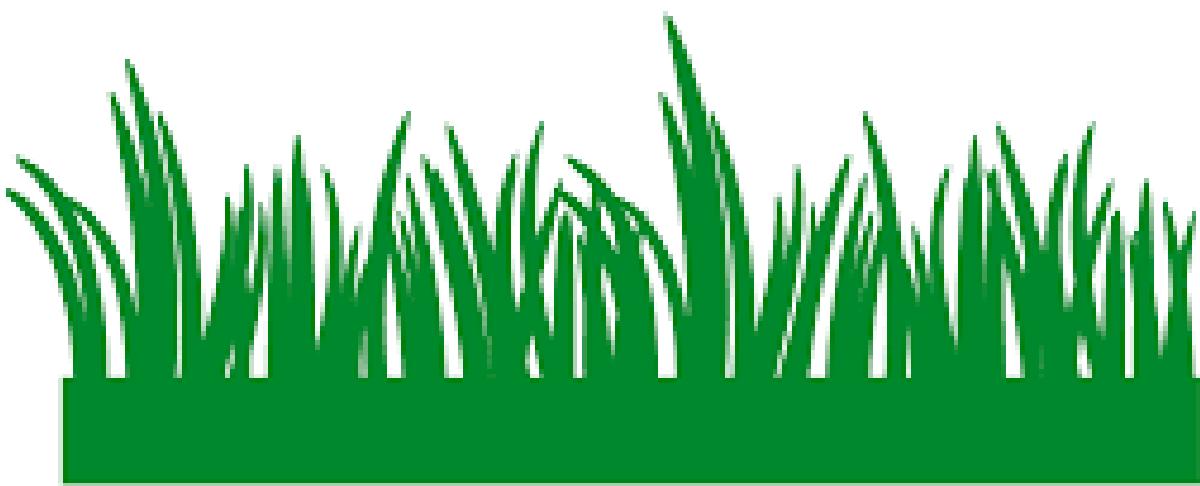
Grass



Tree



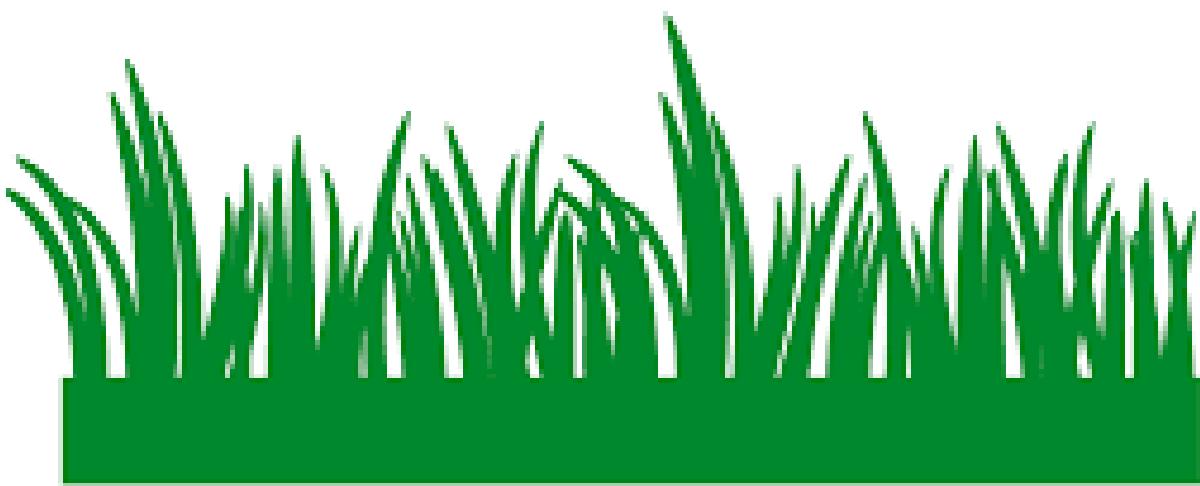
Grass



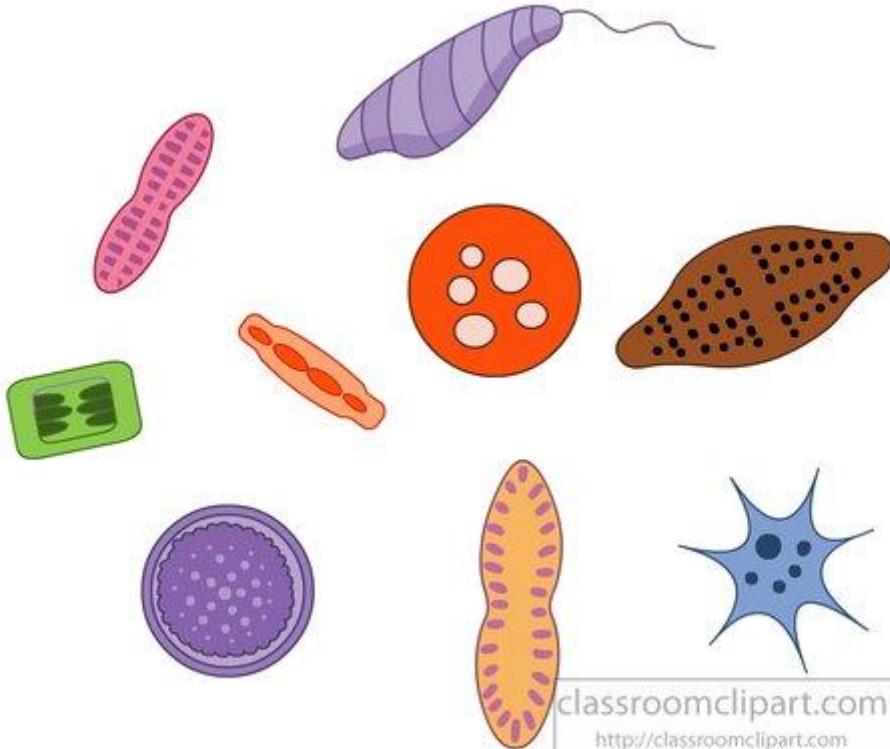
Dead Prehistoric Plants and Animals



Grass



Phytoplankton



classroomclipart.com
<http://classroomclipart.com>

