Food Webs

Starter

- Start by asking the class where food comes from?
- Play the video found at https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/food-chains-and-food-webs-in-animals/zn7g92p
- Have a conversation with the class about the video. What did they learn? What did they find interesting? Is there any part of it that they can relate to what they know about Orkney's wildlife?
- Stoats would be considered an animal that upsets Orkneys food web by reducing the number of Orkney voles other top predators such as short-eared owls struggle to find food.
- Begin to draw a very basic food web on the board for animals found in mainland Scotland ensuring that the arrows you put on your food web show energy transfer.

Activity

- Chose a habitat type that you find round Orkney. It could be moorland, could the shore edge or could be in the deep water surrounding Orkney.
- Choose a starting point for your food web and from there fill in all the gaps around your producer.
- See if the class can challenge themselves to produce the food web with the highest number or organisms within it!
- Allow the class access to computers to research animals that they think may exist in their food webs.
- Once a rough food web has been drawn the students should redraw it accurately either sketching or printing pictures of their chosen animals as they go.
- Once their web is complete they should choose one of their organisms and describe what would happen if that organism were to be removed from the food chain.

Plenary

- Photocopy each pairs work and put it around the room. Give the children sticky notes so that they can go around a write bits that they like or questions that they would like to ask the food web creators.

Extension idea

- Write a few sentences describing what happens to the energy in animals ones they have died and how that feeds into the beginning of the food chain.