Orkney Native Wildlife Project

Lesson 2 : Invasive species

Resource 1: Food webs

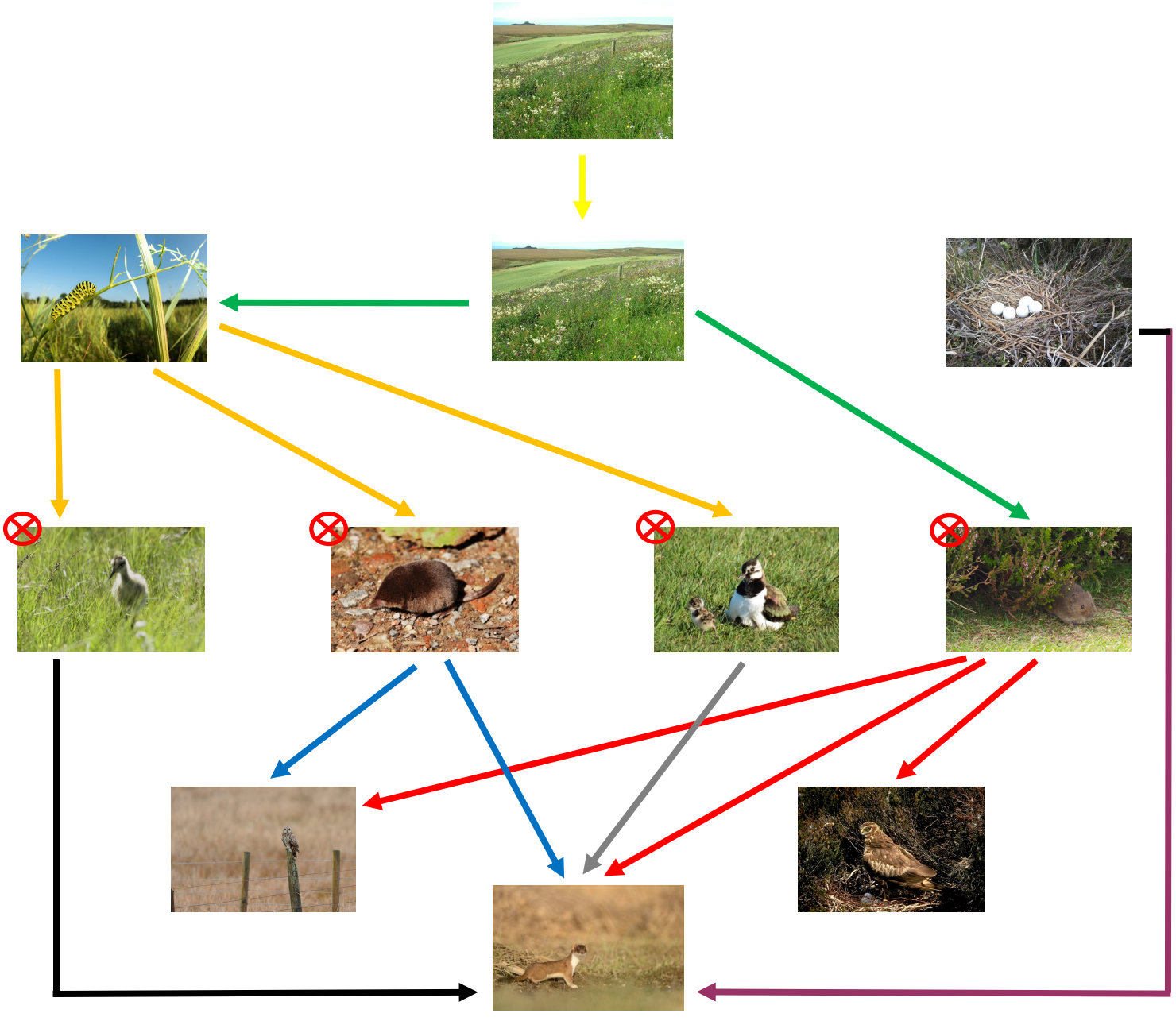
Version 1

Scatter animal images over a large piece of paper or white board (excluding the stoat for now) and have children create a food web using the statements on the back of the images as guidance by drawing arrows between each image. Introduce the stoat, adding more arrows to show its prey. Remove the prey species of the stoat and discuss what impact reduced prey species will have on the native predator population.

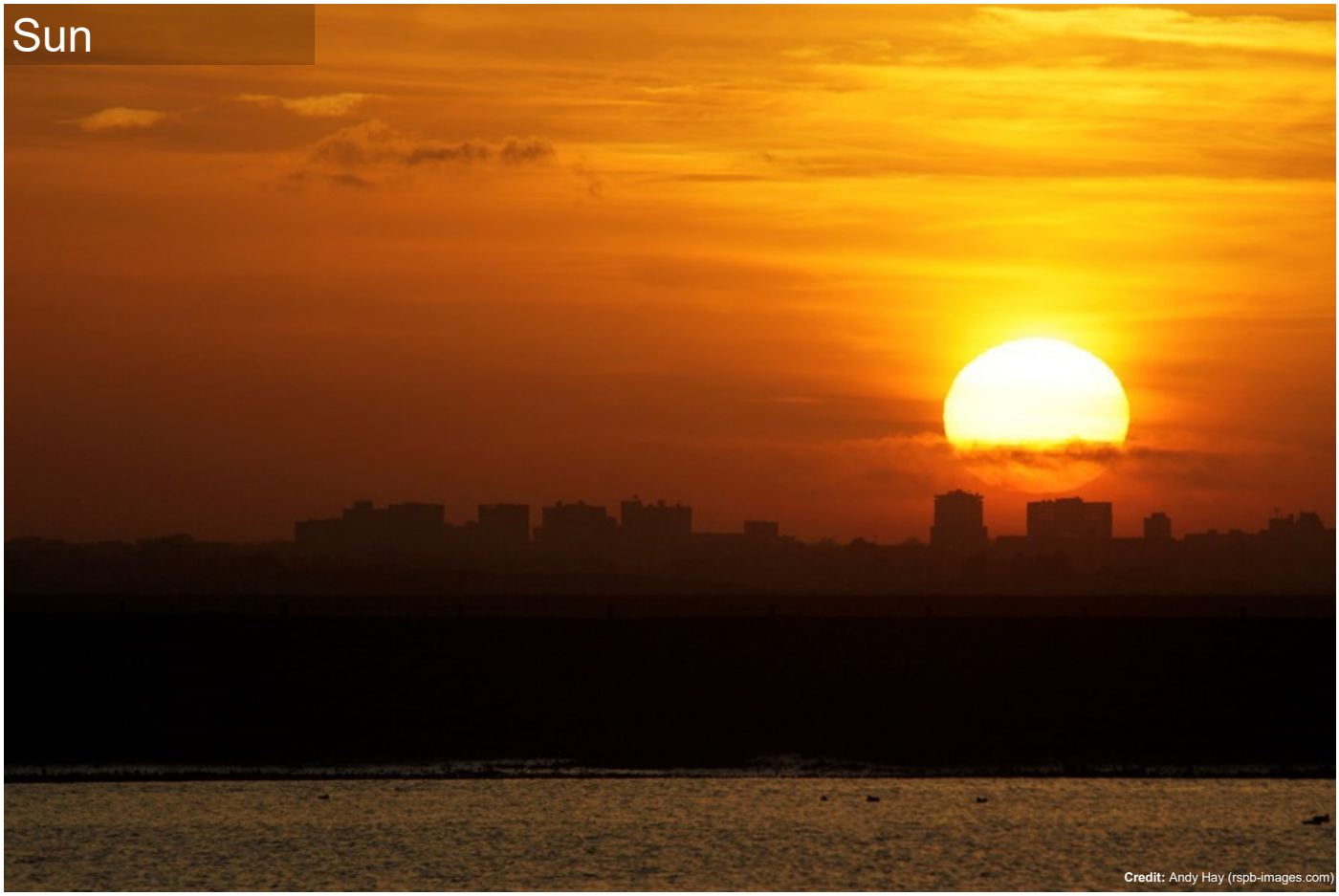
Version 2

Give each child an animal (excluding the stoat for now) and ask them to read the statement on the back. Using the string, create a food web by getting the children to hold the ends of the string. Explain this is a balanced food web. Introduce the stoat, adding more arrows to show its prey. Explain that stoat populations increase rapidly meaning more stoats predating on more prey species. Remove the prey species of the stoat and discuss what impact reduced prey species will have on the native predator population. See below for completed food web.

Extension: Print each level of the food chain on different coloured paper to extend the activity to talking about producers, primary, secondary and tertiary consumers.



Sun



Credit: Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

Grass

Credit: RSPB (rspb-images.com)

All plants rely on the sun to photosynthesis which is how they reproduce.

Orkney vole

Credit: pauljennywilson (flickr.com)

Pygmy shrew

Credit: Andrew (flickr.com)

I am a herbivore, primarily eating grasses, bulbs, bark and roots.

My diet is mostly made up of insects, woodlice and spiders.

Hen harrier

Credit: Nike Richards (rspb-images.com)

Short eared owl

Credit: Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

The Orkney vole is an important part of my diet during breeding season.

I will also prey on other small mammals.

The Orkney vole makes up 70-100% of my diet throughout the year.


Stoat
Credit: Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)


Stoat
Credit: Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

I have a varied diet, but will mostly predate on the Orkney vole.

I will also eat other small mammals, eggs and chicks.

I have a varied diet, but will mostly predate on the Orkney vole.

I will also eat other small mammals eggs and chicks.

Hen harrier eggs

Lapwing chick

Hen harrier eggs.

I eat insects and spiders.


Curlew chick
Credit: RSPB (rspb-images.com)


Caterpillar
Credit: Ben Andrew (rspb-images.com)

I eat insects hiding in wet pools and ditches.

I eat lots of leaves and vegetation.