



Forming faithful stewards, Caring for sacred waters

Web of Life Activity for 10-15 participants

Preparation: Bring a ball of yarn or string

Bring the list of Flora and Fauna of the Chesapeake Bay

Introduction: Say: Each plant and animal is an integral strand in the total Web of Life (add if appropriate for your group: that God created). **Hear this quote** about the Web of Life: *When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.* ~John Muir, 1911

Process: Web of Life game with a ball of string

Invite people to arrange themselves in a circle. Say: Now let's experience how all things are *hitched to everything else in the universe*. I am giving each of you the name of a plant or animal that lives in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (using the Flora & Fauna list in that order – i.e. alternating plants and animals). Go around circle – "You are a Great Blue Heron. You are a River Birch....." etc.

Begin with the first person named. Give them the ball of yarn. Ask them to say their animal or plant name (loudly) and then they toss the ball of yarn **across the circle** to another person. When circle/ web is complete, "chop down" a few of the "trees" saying why: e.g. housing development, a freeway, etc. and see what happens to the "Web of Life." Pause and say: "Notice the web of life is unraveling."

Then invite them to "restore" the web by to standing up again (as newly planted trees) and grab a dropped strand of the yarn "to reweave the Web of Life."

Read Quote: *Man [sic] did not create the web of life- he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.* ~ Chief Seattle, 1854

What shall we do? Job responds: (Job 12:7-10)

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;

the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

⁸ask the plants of the earth,^[a] and they will teach you;

and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

⁹Who among all these does not know

that the hand of the LORD has done this?

¹⁰In his hand is the life of every living thing

and the breath of every human being.

AMEN

Web of Life List: Flora and Fauna of the Chesapeake Bay

Chesapeake Bay Flora & Fauna

3,600 species of plants, fish and animals, of which 2,700 species of plants alone live in the Chesapeake Bay area. These plants serve as the base for the foodchain in this system. Without these plants, the fish, birds and other animals couldn't exist.

Great Blue Heron

River Birch

Horseshoe Crab

White Oak Tree

Osprey

Red Maple

Robin

Sweetbay Magnolia

Monarch Butterfly

Loblolly Pine

Red Fox

Dogwood Tree

Oyster

Redbud Tree

Diamondback Terrapin