

## 3rd-5th Grade: Animal Defense Skills

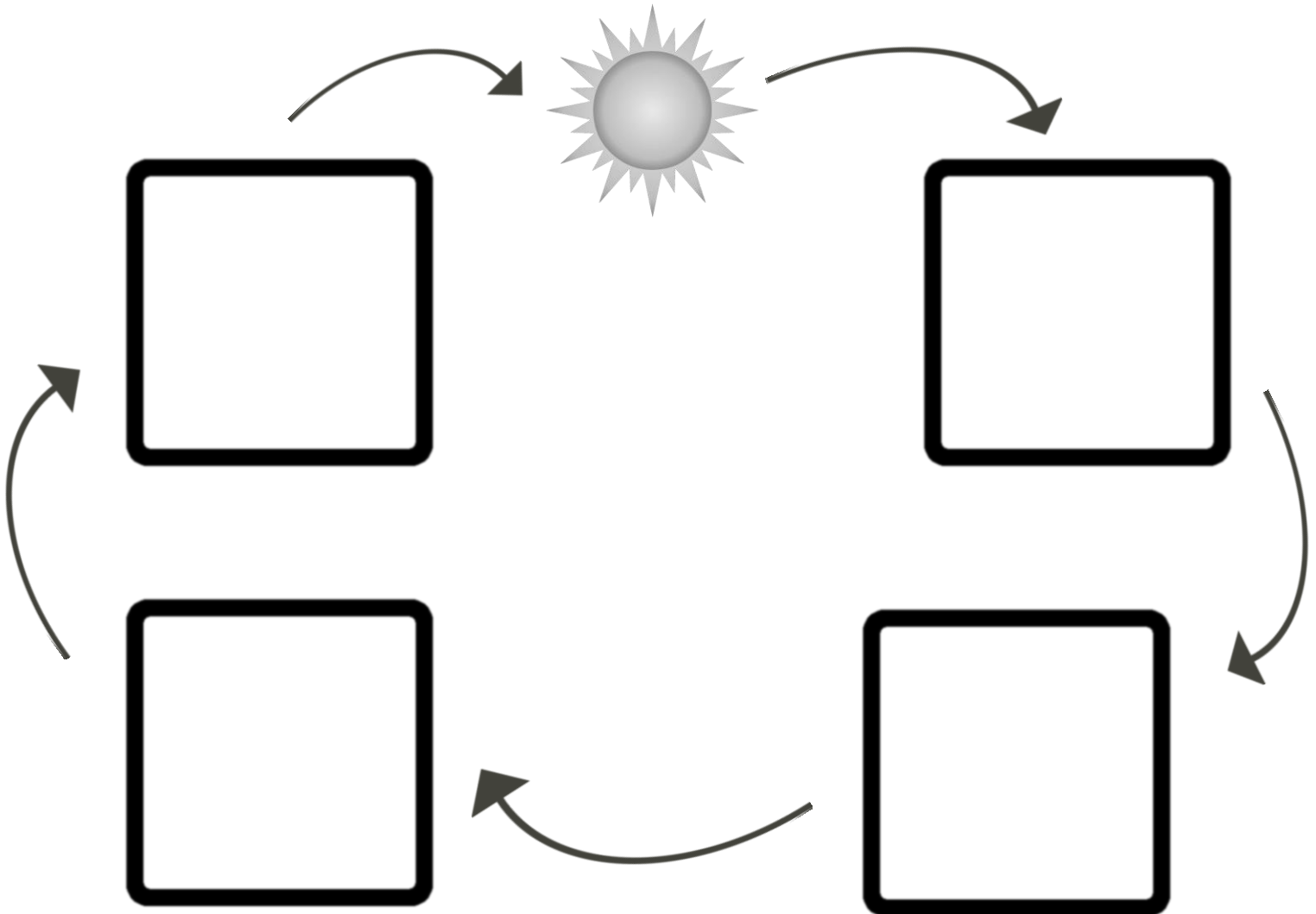
Existing species have inherited traits from their ancestors that help them to survive and reproduce.

**Description:** Animals inherit traits from their parents and ancestors that help them survive

**Location at Zoo:** Birds of the World, World of the Insect, Cat Canyon/Night Hunters, Reptile House

**Materials:** Pencil, clipboard

1. In the wild, animals are always on the hunt for their next meal. **Predators** hunt, stalk, and attack **prey** to provide themselves with nutrients. Animals have adaptations that give them the ability to catch their meals. Let's review how the flow of energy works in a food chain. Create a *food chain* below by drawing and naming at least four animals or plants in your *ecosystem* and using the arrows as the flow of energy.



2. Although **predators** have some strong offensive, attacking skills, it doesn't mean **prey** waits around to be someone's dinner. All animals have special defense skills that protect them. These skills are called *adaptations* and have been passed down through generations. Look around at the different animals at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Then, name and draw an animal that matches each defense adaptation.

Defense Adaptation	Animal Name	Animal Drawing
Claws, teeth, and spikes		
Animals that use venom		
Animals that use poison		
Camouflage		
Your choice:  _____		