**TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN**

*“The Day They Parachuted Cats into Borneo”*

This activity demonstrates the importance of the connections among the different components (both biotic and abiotic) in an ecosystem. It also illustrates how difficult it is for humans to identify all the relationships between these components. Predict the chronological order of the events listed below and label them #1-#14. When you think you have the correct sequence, read the packet entitled “Top of the Food Chain” to determine the actual order explained in the reading.

As they say in the movies: “*This is based on a true story*.”

Predicted Order Actual Order

Rats brought the plague.

Rats increased.

Cats died.

Caterpillar numbers went up.

The WHO (World Health Organization) sent DDT to Borneo.

Mosquitoes were wiped out, but so were wasps.

Caterpillars ate grass roofs.

With mosquito populations down, flies reproduced more.

Cats were parachuted in.

Piles of dead flies showed up all over.

DDT was sprayed a second time.

Cats caught lizards containing DDT.

Lizards slowed down.

Lizards ate the flies and accumulated DDT in their bodies.

On the back of this piece of paper, make a food web of all the organisms mentioned in the reading.