



**TREE OF LIFE**  
by  
**Barbara Bash**

It is difficult to believe that one tree could support so many animals. We know that a green plant must be at the center of every food web, but the baobab becomes more amazing with the turning of every page.

Its life span is phenomenal, the climate in which it exists is extreme, and it appears to undergo a kind of metamorphosis as it goes from young plant to adult. It would provide an excellent model for students to try to understand the complexity of a food web.

**MATERIALS:** Index cards, string

**ACTIVITY:** With your students, create a list of all the creatures dependent on the baobab. Put each creature on a separate index card. Let each of your students take a card and act out the role of interaction between the baobab and the African creatures.

**SOURCE:** Information in life science Textbooks about food chains and food webs.

**STANDARDS:**

**BSL:** 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 11.2, 12.1, 12.3

**NCTM:** 4d, 13a

**SCS:** A1, C1, C3, F3, H2, H4

Bash, Barbara. Tree of Life. Sierra Club Books. Little, Brown and Company, c1939. ISBN#0-316-08305-4.