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| **Objectives**  By the end of this lesson the student should be able to:   * Summarize the flow of energy from the sun through the various levels of the food chain * Identify various elements of the carbon cycle, nitrogen cycle and water cycle * Identify the relationship of dose and toxicity to the effects of exposure from environmental hazards and the relationship of exposure, toxicity and risk   **Lesson Description**  This lesson defines important terms related to the environment and describes the flow of energy and matter through the environment in terms of the food chain and the carbon, nitrogen and water cycles.  Next, the lesson discusses important concepts related to the effects of hazardous substances in the environment.  It is important for the teacher to help the students understand that although there are hazards present in the environment, the effect of these hazards depends upon the toxicity of the substance and their amount of exposure.  Finally, students need to understand the relationship between the natural flow of energy and matter through the various parts of the environment and how these natural processes cause environmental hazards to spread.  **Assessment**  There is a pre-test and a post-test for each lesson which must be printed before they are administered.  **Standards Targeted**  The Texas Middle School Science and Technology Standards targeted in this lesson can be found in the TEKS document. |