

# Natural Odds

By: Robert Luan

The game is on in the plant and animal kingdoms. But when you play this game of life, you win, or you die!

Fill out the bracket based on which living thing tends to eat/defeat the other. The completed bracket is shown on the next page. Nature sure is merciless...

Phew! Now that that's done, let's convert the posted odds into letters of the alphabet, using A=1, B=2, etc. In this way, each team/animal will have a letter associated with it.

Next, consider that "you are what you eat, just as in a game of Snake." The winner of each game will tack on the letters from the defeated team. Let's take the lower right corner as an example. The Snails ("M") will eat the Lettuce ("P") and take the letters "MP" to the next round. When they meet the Rats ("HA"), the Snails ("MP") will be defeated, and the Rats will carry on the letters "HAMP". When you apply this scheme across the bracket, you find the following message (spaces added for clarity):

NICKNAME FOR MAIN CALIFORNIAN RUNNING BACK FOR LATEST SUPERB OWL CHAMPIONS

The latest Superb Owl champions were the Seahawks. Their starting running back was born and raised in Oakland, California and has had an affinity for Skittles since his college days. Marshawn Lynch is affectionately known as **BEAST MODE**.

This memo is confidential and for internal distribution only.  
Failure to comply will be prosecuted by the Nevada Puzzle Board to the fullest extent of the law.

