

Food Chains and Ecosystems

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Describe how energy passes through a food chain
- 2 Identify producers, consumers, predators, and prey in an ecosystem

MINI LESSON

A food chain shows how energy passes from one living thing to another. It always begins with the sun, which provides energy to plants. Plants use this energy to make food, making them the producers. Animals that eat plants or other animals are called consumers.

Key Vocabulary

VOCABULARY

Producer	A living thing (usually a plant) that makes its own food using sunlight.
Consumer	A living thing that gets energy by eating plants or other animals.
Predator	An animal that hunts and eats other animals.
Prey	An animal that is hunted and eaten by a predator.
Food chain	A sequence showing how energy passes from one organism to another.
Ecosystem	A community of living things interacting with each other and their environment.

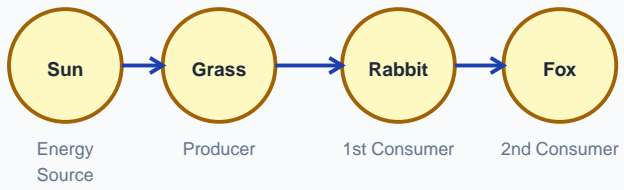
How a Food Chain Works

- The sun provides energy for plants to grow.
- Plants (producers) are eaten by primary consumers (e.g. rabbits eat grass).
- Primary consumers are eaten by secondary consumers (e.g. foxes eat rabbits).
- Energy is passed from one organism to the next along the chain.
- A food web shows multiple food chains linked together in an ecosystem.

! Arrows in a food chain point in the direction energy flows — from the organism being eaten toward the one eating it.

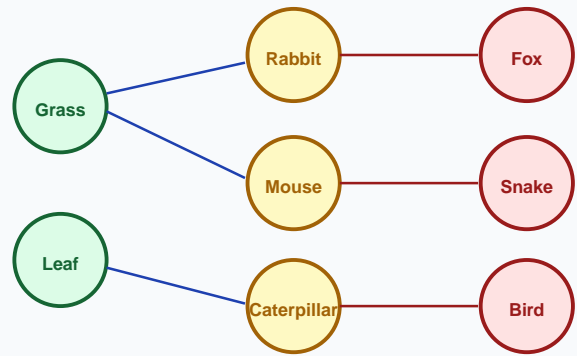
A Simple Food Chain

Energy flows from producer to consumers



Sun provides energy that passes through the chain.

A Simple Food Web



EXERCISES — BUILD THE SENTENCES

Use the word chips for each line to build the correct sentence. Write it neatly on the lines — capital letter at the start, finger-space between words, period at the end.

1. grass rabbit The eaten the is by

2. by is the fox . rabbit The eaten

3. . The to the grass sun for energy grow provides

4. the mouse . which eats eagle the snake eats The

5. sunlight Producers make using food .

6. how chain food energy living passes . things A shows between

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the best answer.

What is the starting point of every food chain?

- A predator
- A consumer
- The sun

What is a producer?

- An animal that eats other animals
- A plant or organism that makes its own food using sunlight
- An animal that is eaten by predators

In the food chain: Grass 'Rabbit 'Fox, what is the rabbit?

- A producer
- A primary consumer
- A secondary consumer

What does the arrow in a food chain show?

- Where the animal lives
- The direction food moves
- The direction energy flows

What is an ecosystem?

- A community of living things interacting with each other and their environment
- A single food chain in a forest
- A group of plants in a garden

Which organism is the prey in the food chain: Fox 'Rabbit ' Grass?

- Fox
- Rabbit
- Both fox and rabbit

What is a food web?

- A single food chain with one producer
- A spider web made of food
- Multiple food chains linked together in an ecosystem

What happens to energy as it passes through a food chain?

- Energy passes from producers to consumers
- Energy passes from consumers to producers
- Energy stays with the first organism forever

Which organism is a secondary consumer in: Grass 'Caterpillar 'Bird?

- Grass
- Bird
- Caterpillar

What would happen to rabbits if all foxes disappeared from an ecosystem?

- Rabbit numbers would stay the same
- Rabbit numbers would decrease rapidly
- Rabbit numbers would likely increase with no predator

ASSESSMENT**PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST**

- Correctly builds at least four food chain sentences using the word tiles.
- Labels a given food chain with producer, consumer, predator, and prey.
- Explains the role of the sun in a food chain.
- Describes the difference between a food chain and a food web.