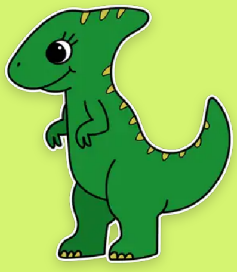
SCIENCE · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–4

Put the Food Chains in Order

Write three food chains in order, from the producer to the top predator.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



A food chain shows who eats what. It starts with a **producer**, a plant that makes food from sunlight. The arrow points to the animal that eats it.

Meadow: snake, grass, frog, grasshopper

☀ → ☐ → ☐ → ☐ → ☐

Forest: hawk, acorns, snake, mouse

☀ → ☐ → ☐ → ☐ → ☐

Ocean: seal, krill, algae, penguin

☀ → ☐ → ☐ → ☐ → ☐

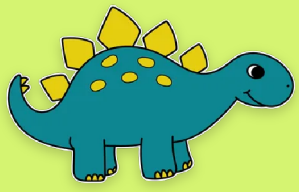
Where does the energy in every food chain first come from?

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

SCIENCE · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–5

Producers, Consumers and Decomposers



Sort twelve living things into producers, consumers and decomposers.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Producers make their own food from sunlight. **Consumers** eat other living things. **Decomposers** break down dead plants and animals.

Write each living thing in the right column.

deer · frog · oak tree · earthworm · rabbit · bacteria · mushroom · owl · algae · sunflower · mold · grass

Producers	Consumers	Decomposers

What would happen to a forest with no decomposers?

_____

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

SCIENCE · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–5

Herbivore, Carnivore or Omnivore?

Sort twelve animals by what they eat: plants, meat or both.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Herbivores eat only plants. **Carnivores** eat only meat. **Omnivores** eat plants and meat.

Write each animal in the right column.

wolf · owl · deer · raccoon · lion · chicken · bear · shark · rabbit · giraffe · people · cow

Herbivores	Carnivores	Omnivores

Are you an herbivore, carnivore or omnivore? How do you know?

_____

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

SCIENCE · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 4–5

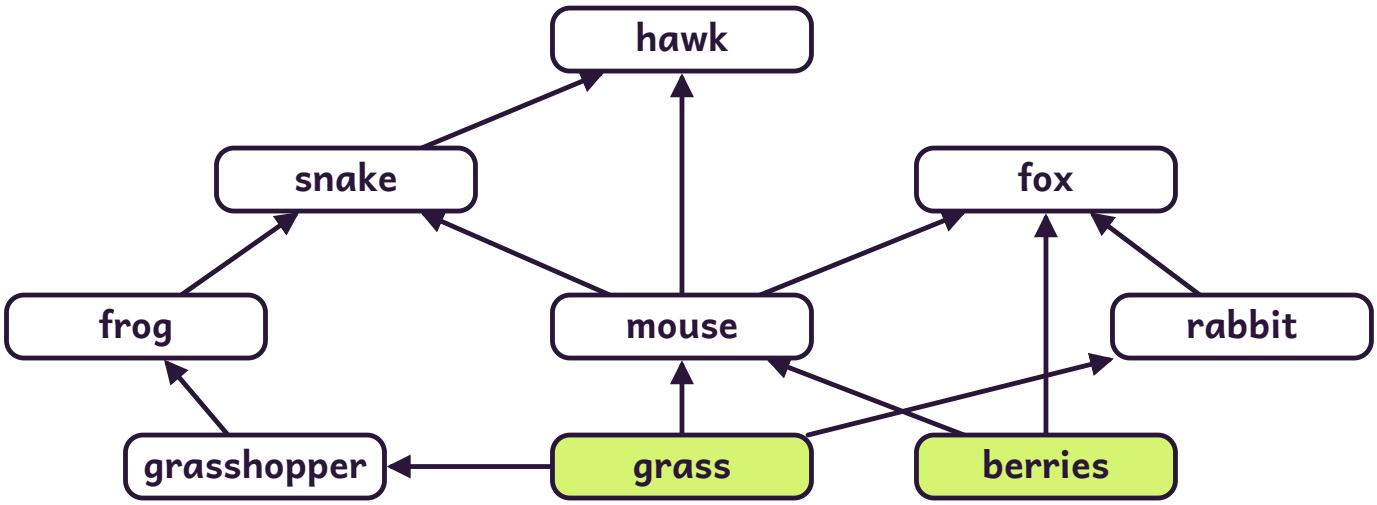
Read a Food Web

Answer six questions about a meadow food web with nine living things.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Arrows point from the food to the animal that eats it.



1. Name a producer. _____

2. What does the frog eat? _____

3. Which animals eat mice? _____

4. Write a food chain with four living things. _____

5. If the grasshoppers disappeared, what would happen to the frogs? _____

6. Which animal is the top predator? _____

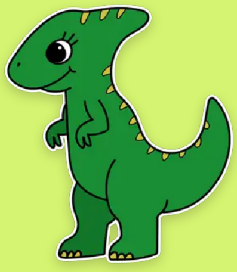
Art © Kevin Coulston

SCIENCE · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–5

Build a Food Chain

Draw a four-link food chain for a habitat you choose, then label the levels of an energy pyramid.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



My habitat: ☐ ocean ☐ forest ☐ desert ☐ pond ☐ grassland

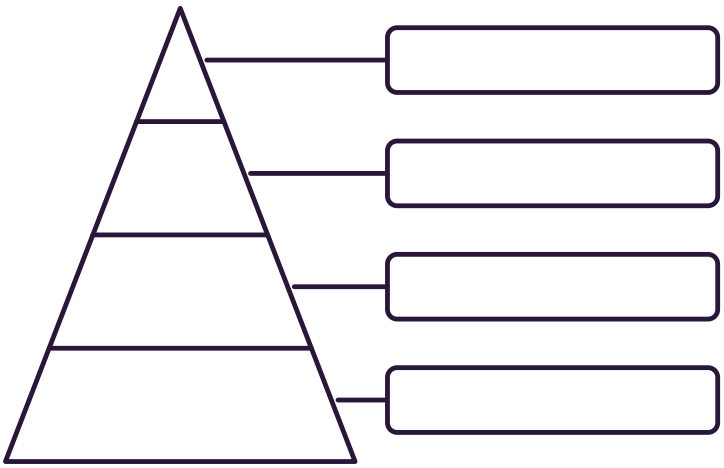
Draw a food chain with four living things. Label each one: producer or consumer.

	→	→	→
_____	_____	_____	_____

Word bank

producers · primary consumers · secondary consumers · tertiary consumers

Label the energy pyramid.



Only about **one tenth** of the energy at each level moves up to the next. That is why there are lots of plants, fewer plant eaters and only a few top predators.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–4

Answer Key: Put the Food Chains in Order

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



A food chain shows who eats what. It starts with a **producer**, a plant that makes food from sunlight. The arrow points to the animal that eats it.

Meadow: snake, grass, frog, grasshopper



Forest: hawk, acorns, snake, mouse



Ocean: seal, krill, algae, penguin



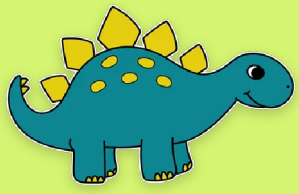
Where does the energy in every food chain first come from?

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Producers, Consumers and Decomposers

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Producers make their own food from sunlight. **Consumers** eat other living things. **Decomposers** break down dead plants and animals.

Write each living thing in the right column.

deer · frog · oak tree · earthworm · rabbit · bacteria · mushroom · owl · algae · sunflower · mold · grass

Producers	Consumers	Decomposers
grass	rabbit	mushroom
oak tree	owl	earthworm
algae	deer	bacteria
sunflower	frog	mold

What would happen to a forest with no decomposers?

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Herbivore, Carnivore or Omnivore?

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Herbivores eat only plants. **Carnivores** eat only meat. **Omnivores** eat plants and meat.

Write each animal in the right column.

wolf · owl · deer · raccoon · lion · chicken · bear · shark · rabbit · giraffe · people · cow

Herbivores	Carnivores	Omnivores
cow	lion	bear
deer	shark	raccoon
rabbit	wolf	chicken
giraffe	owl	people

Are you an herbivore, carnivore or omnivore? How do you know?

Art © Kevin Coulston

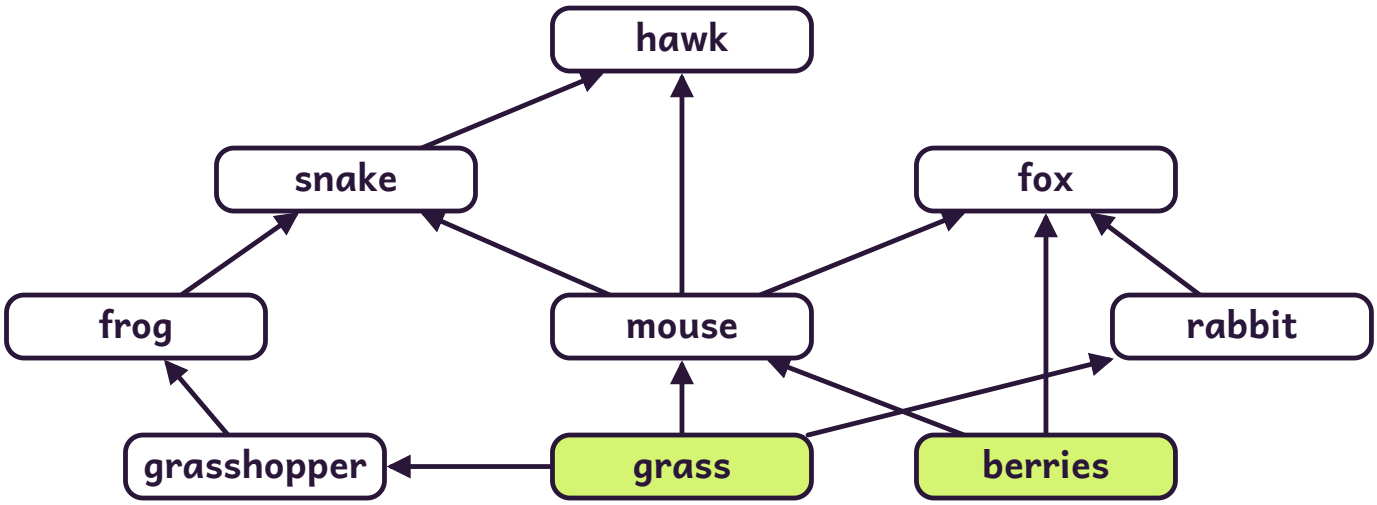
ANSWER KEY · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 4–5

Answer Key: Read a Food Web

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Arrows point from the food to the animal that eats it.



1. Name a producer. grass or berries

2. What does the frog eat? grasshoppers

3. Which animals eat mice? snakes, foxes and hawks

4. Write a food chain with four living things. grass → grasshopper → frog → snake

5. If the grasshoppers disappeared, what would happen to the frogs? fewer frogs: they would lose their food

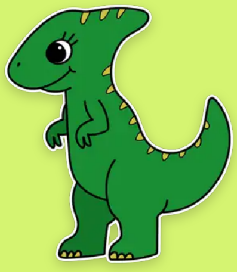
6. Which animal is the top predator? the hawk

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ANSWER KEY · FOOD CHAINS AND ECOSYSTEMS · GRADES 3–5

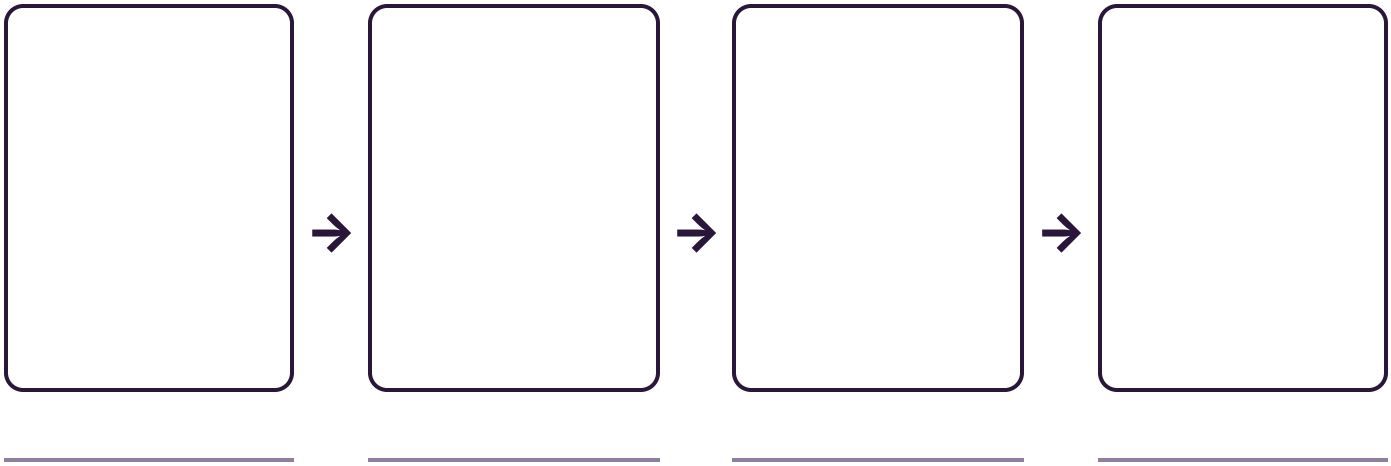
Answer Key: Build a Food Chain

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



My habitat: ☐ ocean ☐ forest ☐ desert ☐ pond ☐ grassland

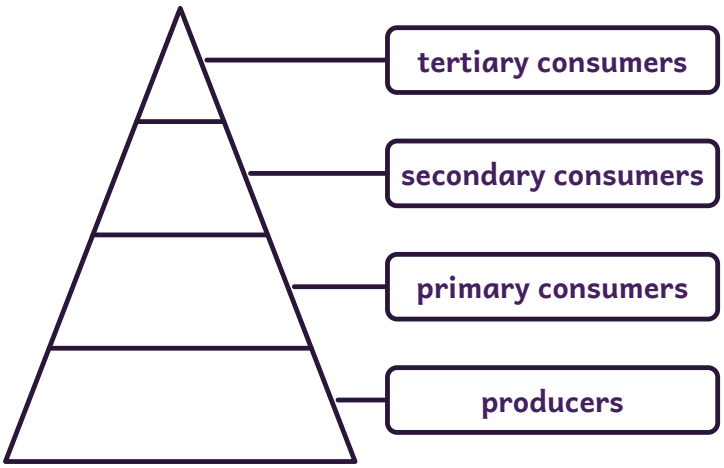
Draw a food chain with four living things. Label each one: producer or consumer.



Word bank

producers · primary consumers · secondary consumers · tertiary consumers

Label the energy pyramid.



Only about **one tenth** of the energy at each level moves up to the next. That is why there are lots of plants, fewer plant eaters and only a few top predators.

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