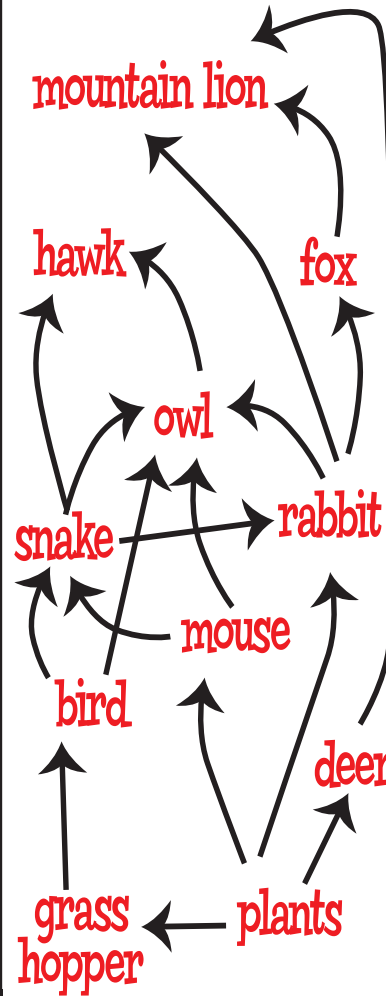


What is a food web?

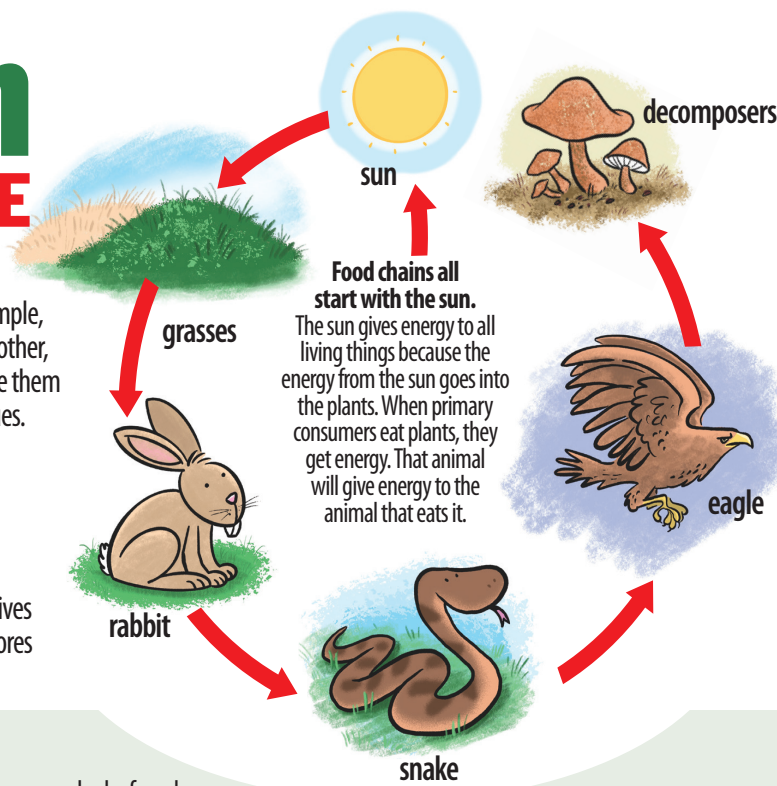
Food webs show how different food chains are connected. For example, a mouse and a rabbit both eat plants and seeds. Like a spider web, a food web can be very complicated since there are so many different creatures.



Food Chain

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

A food chain links plants and animals to each other for survival. For example, a plant gets eaten by a small animal. That animal is also food for another, larger animal. Ultimately, when plants and animals die, decomposers cause them to turn back into soil that will grow more plants and the circle of life continues. The diagram at right illustrates a basic food chain.



Complete the Food Chains

Below are three unfinished food chains. Complete each chain by drawing, naming or pasting a picture of one of the choices of plants or animals who lives in that plant community. Think about which animals are herbivores, omnivores and carnivores.

Evergreen Forest Community

The forest community has many different kinds of trees. Ferns and mosses can also be found.

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| PRODUCER bay nuts • leaves madrone berries | PRIMARY CONSUMER | SECONDARY CONSUMER fox • bobcat | FINAL CONSUMER mountain lion coyote | DECOMPOSER worm • fungi bacteria |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|---|

Creekside Community

The area along the banks of a creek is mostly moist and shady.

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| PRODUCER Underwater plants algae | PRIMARY CONSUMER aquatic insects fish | SECONDARY CONSUMER newt frog | FINAL CONSUMER raccoon scrub jay | DECOMPOSER worm • fungi mushroom |
|---|--|---|---|---|

Grassland Community

This can be a dry and hot area. Mostly low, dense bushes and a few wildflowers can be found there.

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| PRODUCER flowers • seeds berries | PRIMARY CONSUMER rat • mouse insect | SECONDARY CONSUMER snake • bobcat lizard | FINAL CONSUMER owl hawk | DECOMPOSER worm • fungi mushroom |
|---|--|---|--|---|

Food Chain Words

PRODUCERS: Plants that produce their own food from sun, water, air and soil.

CONSUMERS: Animals that eat other plants and animals.

DECOMPOSERS: This group includes fungi, bacteria and worms that eat decaying plants and animals.

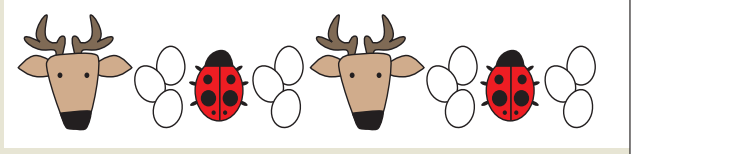
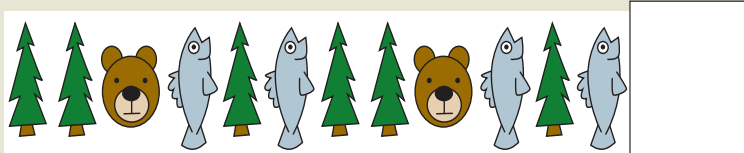
Extra! Extra! Community Connections

Look through the newspaper for five or more people or places that are connected to your life. (Example: A grocery store where your family shops. What other connections can you find?)

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw the thing that should come next to continue the pattern in each row.



Double Double Word Search

- CONSUMER
- CHAIN
- BACTERIA
- CIRCLE
- BOBCAT
- AQUATIC
- LIZARD
- ALGAE
- FUNGI
- FINAL
- FROG
- FISH
- MICE
- WORM
- WEB

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | C | R | B | U | E | A | I | T | R |
| Q | U | E | R | R | A | L | G | A | E |
| U | W | E | C | V | C | F | N | D | M |
| A | O | T | F | I | S | H | U | R | U |
| T | R | A | R | V | M | O | F | A | S |
| I | M | C | H | A | I | N | S | Z | N |
| C | L | B | O | L | D | W | E | I | O |
| E | G | O | R | F | I | N | A | L | C |
| B | S | B | A | C | T | E | R | I | A |

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Let's Talk!

What would happen if all of the plants and animals in one of the links in a food chain disappeared? Talk it over with a parent or family member. What would happen if one animal in a food web became extinct?

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: DECOMPOSER
The noun **decomposer** means an organism that breaks down dead plants and animals.

Fungi are important **decomposers** at the end of the food chain.

Try to use the word **decomposer** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Advertising Math

Find an ad in today's paper that is especially interesting to you. Using the subject of the ad, write a two-step word problem. Then, have a classmate try to solve your problem.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understanding meanings from context clues.

Why did the mushroom have so many friends?

ANSWER: Because he was a real fungi!

Write On!

Plan a Picnic

Where would you go on a family picnic? What would you bring?

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