



Food Chains in Nature Comprehension

Upper Primary Advance Science

Energy Flow in Food Chains: Understanding How Living Things Depend on Each Other

Every living thing needs energy to grow, move, and survive. In nature, energy flows from one organism to another through a food chain. A food chain shows the connection between living things, each depending on the other for food. It usually begins with producers, such as green plants and algae, which make their own food using sunlight through photosynthesis and providing energy for all other organisms in the chain.



Next in the chain are consumers, which eat other organisms to get energy. Herbivores are animals that eat plants, like rabbits, kangaroos, or grasshoppers. Carnivores, such as lions or hawks, eat other animals, while omnivores, like humans and bears, eat both plants and animals. The arrows in a food chain show the direction of energy flow — from the organism being eaten to the one doing the eating

At the end of the food chain come decomposers, such as fungi and bacteria. They break down dead plants and animals into simple substances that return nutrients to the soil. This process helps new plants grow, beginning the energy cycle again.

A simple example of a food chain is:

Grass → Grasshopper → Frog → Snake → Eagle. Each step, or link, in this chain plays a vital role in keeping ecosystems balanced and healthy.

Read the passage above and answer the questions that follow.

1. What is a food chain?

2. Which is always at the start of a food chain?

3. What do we call animals that eat only plants?

4. In the food chain Grass → Rabbit → Fox, what is the rabbit?



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Read the passage above and answer the questions that follow.

5. Which arrow direction shows the correct flow of energy? Circle it.

Producer → Consumer

Consumer → Producer

6. Explain why producers are the most important part of the food chain.

7. What might happen if all herbivores disappeared from an ecosystem?



8. Describe how decomposers help keep the environment clean.



9. Give an example of a food chain you might find in your local area.



Food Chains in Nature Comprehension - Solutions

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Read the passage above and answer the questions that follow.

1. What is a food chain?

A series showing how energy passes from one organism to another

2. Which is always at the start of a food chain?

Producer

3. What do we call animals that eat only plants?

Herbivores

4. In the food chain Grass → Rabbit → Fox, what is the rabbit?

Primary consumer

5. Which arrow direction shows the correct flow of energy? Circle it.

Producer → Consumer

Consumer → Producer

6. Explain why producers are the most important part of the food chain.

Producers create food using sunlight, providing energy for all other

organisms in the chain.



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Read the passage above and answer the questions that follow.

7. What might happen if all herbivores disappeared from an ecosystem?

Carnivores would lose their food source and die out, upsetting the entire balance of the ecosystem.

8. Describe how decomposers help keep the environment clean.

Decomposers break down dead plants and animals, recycling nutrients and preventing waste buildup.

9. Give an example of a food chain you might find in your local area.

Answers may vary.

Grass → Grasshopper → Bird → Cat

