

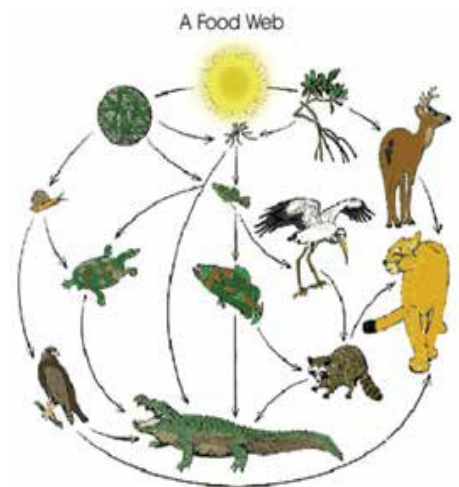


Name: _____

Date: _____

The Food Chain

- 1 Every living thing needs energy to live. Every time an animal moves, they use energy. The energy that they need comes from food. All living things get energy from food.
- 2 Energy starts with the Sun. The Sun sends energy out into our solar system. We see some of that energy as sunlight. Only a small amount of energy from the Sun actually reaches Earth. The Sun's energy is needed for plants to make food through a process called photosynthesis. In photosynthesis, green plants capture the Sun's energy. They use it to make sugars from water and carbon dioxide. Plants are considered a producer in the food chain. A producer makes their own food. Plants convert sunlight into the energy stored in their food. Plants also provide food for others. The plant is then fed to the next part of the food chain.
- 3 Plants are eaten by animals. Animals consume plants for the energy stored in them. Many things take place when consumers eat food. The food is **converted** into energy for the consumer. This energy can be used to keep animals warm. It also keeps their muscles moving. Some of the energy is stored for later use.
- 4 The energy that is in the first plant consumer can then be passed on to more animal consumers. Then, it goes into the final stage of the food chain. The final stage of the food chain is decomposition. All living things die. When living things die, they decompose. Plants and animals that help living things decompose can be called decomposers. Decomposers in the food chain are things such as fungi, mushrooms, or worms. They break down the deceased animals into tiny pieces. The tiny pieces are then taken in by plants as nutrients, and the food chain begins over again.





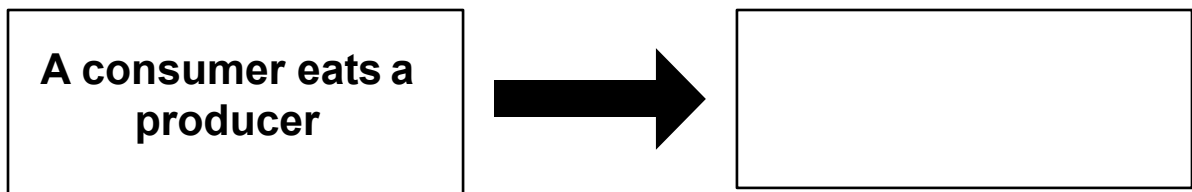
Reading Science

- 5 A food web is a bit different from a food chain. A food web shows many relationships between consumers and producers. It shows how they share the Sun's energy. Many animals eat plants. Many animals eat other animals. Some animals have more than one predator who want to eat them. This creates a food web and the Sun's energy is passed to many consumers. This is represented in a food web.
- 6 All living things need food. Food is necessary to make energy. Living things need it to survive. It all starts with the Sun. Its energy is passed down to producer and then consumer. Finally, it reaches the decomposers. Here it is put back into the ecosystem again.



Reading Science

- 1 What does the information about food chains and webs suggest about living things?
 - A. They all begin small and grow into adults.
 - B. They all give off carbon dioxide.
 - C. They all depend on one another to survive.
 - D. They all eat plants.
- 2 The purpose of this selection is mainly to –
 - A. explain the role of living things in the food chain/web.
 - B. describe how living things in the food chain interact with each other.
 - C. offer why the Sun is needed in our everyday lives.
 - D. explain how consumers need producers.
- 3 Read the diagram below.



Which belongs in the empty box?

- A. The consumer decomposes.
- B. The food is turned into energy.
- C. The consumer is eaten by another consumer.
- D. The Sun is needed to make food.



Reading Science

- 4 What is the main benefit of having decomposers in an ecosystem?
- A. The Sun uses them for energy.
 - B. They give food to other animals.
 - C. They clean up the ecosystem.
 - D. They put nutrients back into the ecosystem.
- 5 The author organized the ideas in this text by –
- A. comparing and contrasting food webs.
 - B. describing the roles in the food chain.
 - C. sequencing how a food chain works.
 - D. listing cause and effects of the Sun's energy.
- 6 From the selection, you can infer that without the Sun –
- A. plants would find another way to make food.
 - B. no living things would be alive.
 - C. we would be able to survive.
 - D. it would be dark.