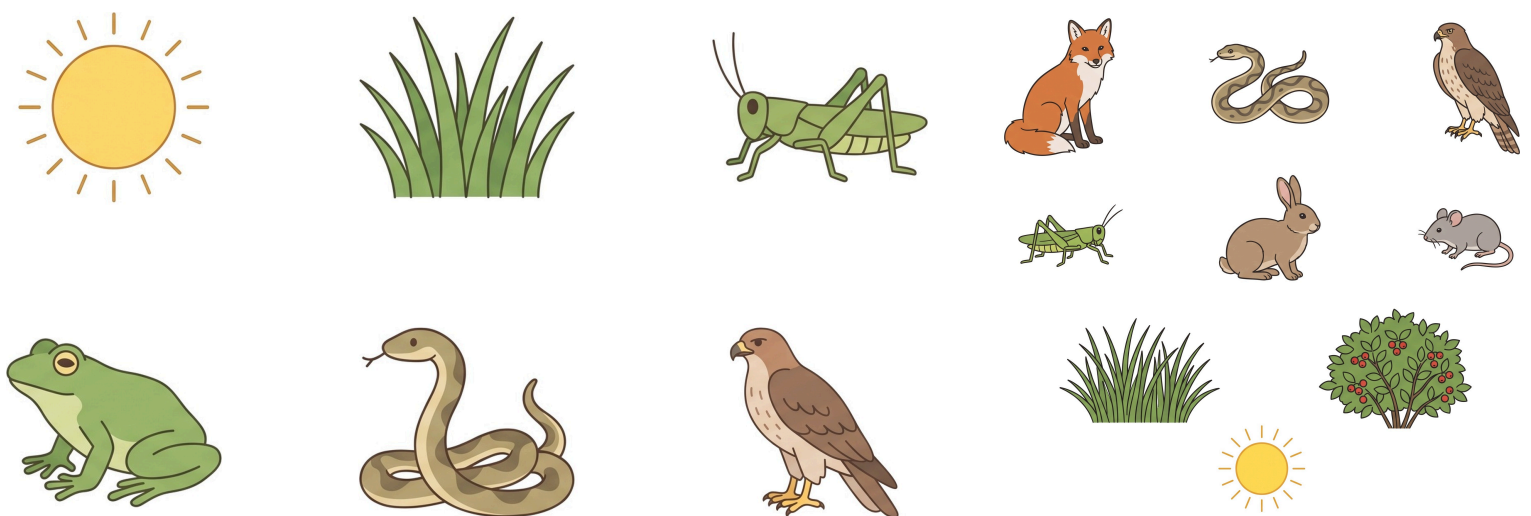


Food Chains and Food Webs

How energy passes from one living thing to the next



9

printable sheets

20

pages

All

answer keys included

Food Chains and Food Webs Teaching Pack

How energy passes from one living thing to the next

How to use this pack. The sheets are in a suggested teaching order: show the labeled diagrams, have students label the blank ones, then work through the practice sheets and finish with the quiz. Use them all over a week or pick the ones you need. The answer keys are together at the back.

What is inside

1. Teach

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2. Label

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7. Check

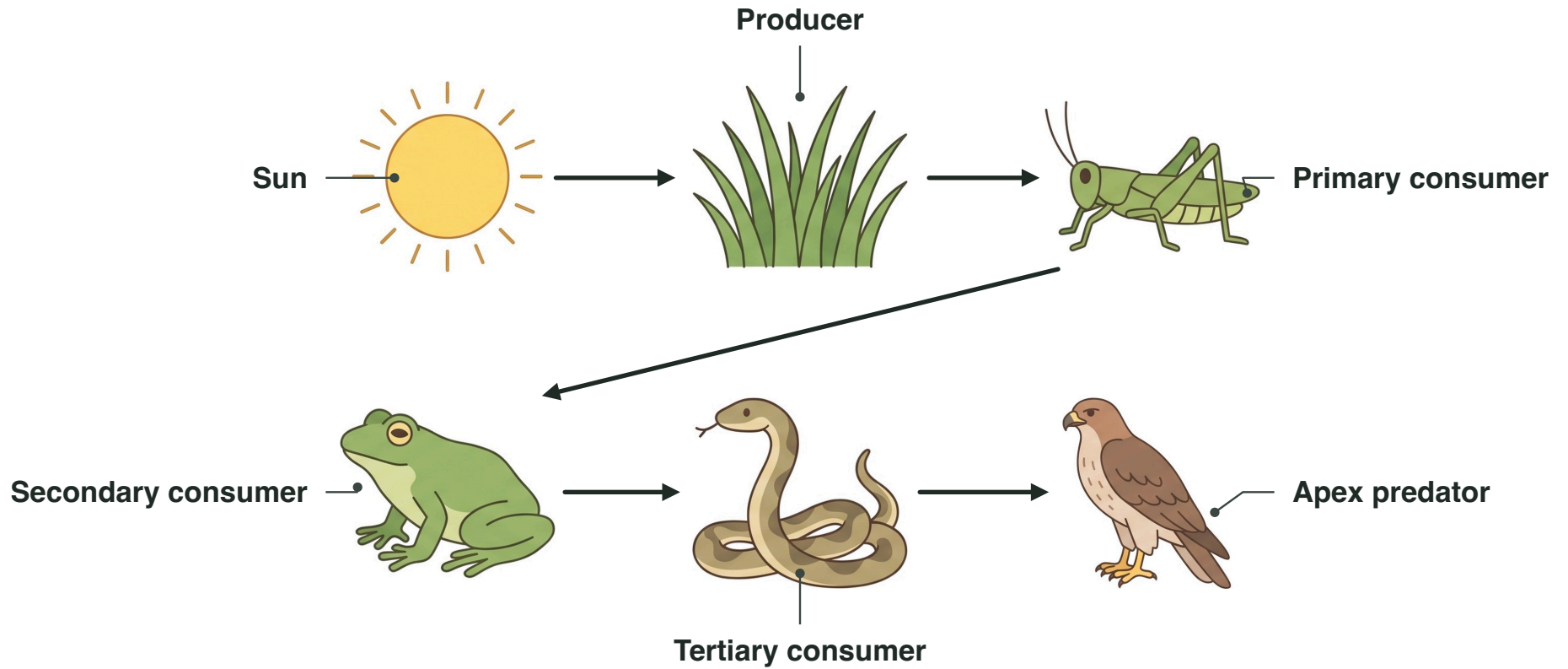
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Answer keys

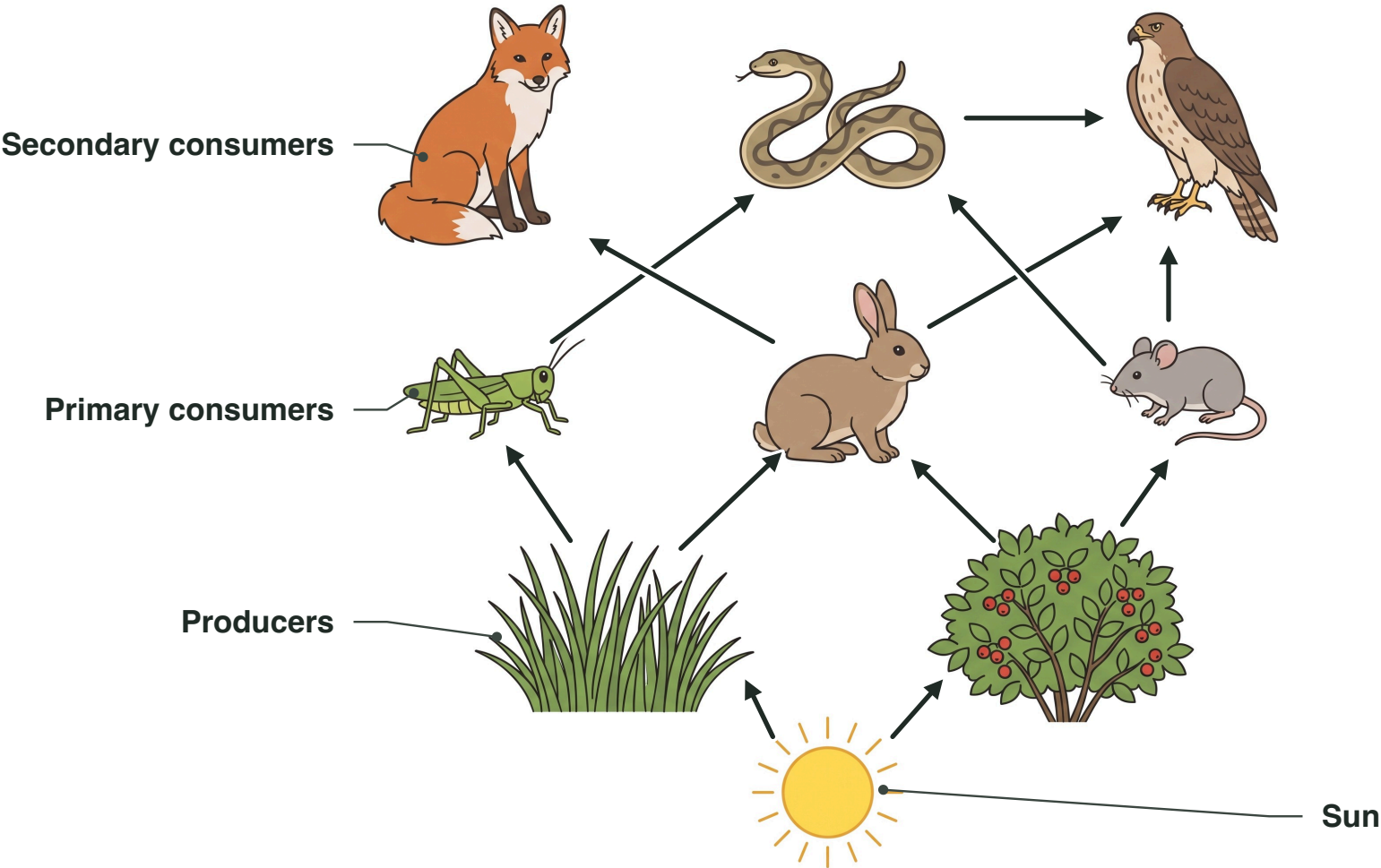
Every answer key, in the same order	15
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More free teaching packs. The Water Cycle, Carbon Cycle and Greenhouse Effect, The Nitrogen Cycle and more at printablescholar.com/teaching-packs/

A Food Chain



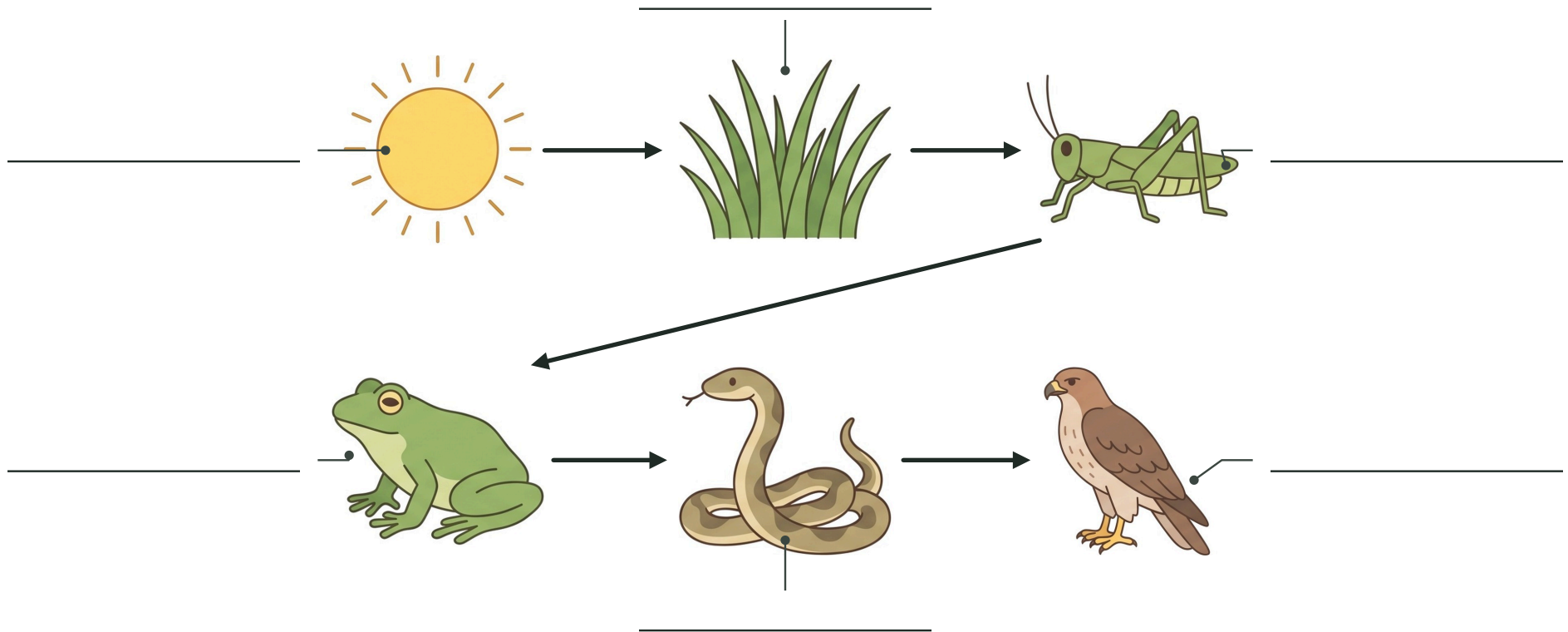
A Food Web



A Food Chain

Name: _____

Write the name of each part on its line. Use the word bank.



Word bank

Apex predator

Primary consumer

Producer

Secondary consumer

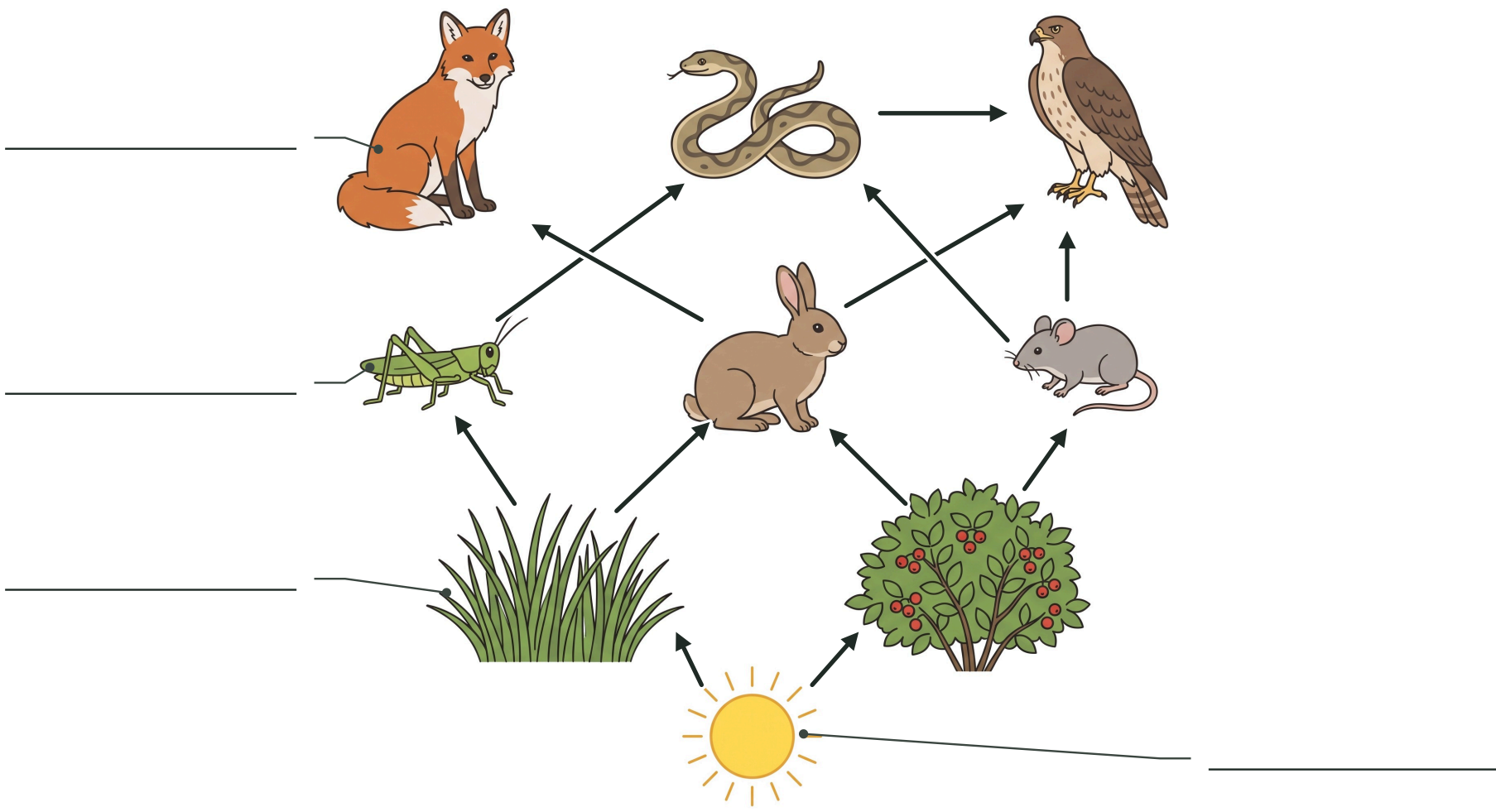
Sun

Tertiary consumer

A Food Web

Name: _____

Write the name of each part on its line. Use the word bank.



Word bank Primary consumers Producers Secondary consumers Sun

Food Chain Words

Use the labeled food chain diagram and the labeled food web diagram to help you.

Part A. Write the word that fits each description.

Word bank

Apex predator

Carnivore

Decomposer

Herbivore

Omnivore

Primary consumer

Producer

Secondary consumer

Sun

Tertiary consumer

1. The first animal in a food chain. It eats the plant. _____
2. An animal that eats both plants and animals. _____
3. The source of energy for almost every food chain. _____
4. The third animal in a food chain. It eats the secondary consumer. _____
5. An animal that eats only plants. _____
6. A living thing, such as grass, that makes its own food using sunlight. _____
7. A living thing, such as a mushroom, that breaks down dead plants and animals. _____
8. The second animal in a food chain. It eats the primary consumer. _____
9. An animal that eats only other animals. _____
10. The hunter at the end of a food chain. Nothing else hunts it. _____

Part B. Answer the questions.

1. In the food chain diagram, which living thing is the producer? Which is the primary consumer?

2. Look at the food web diagram. Name the three primary consumers.

3. The arrow between the grass and the grasshopper points at the grasshopper. What does the arrow show?

Who Eats What?

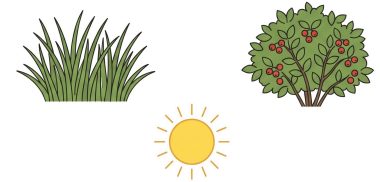
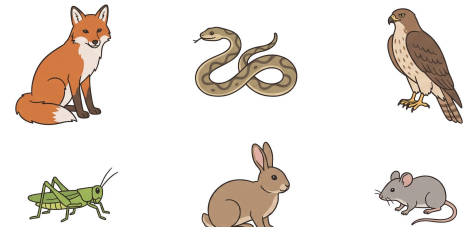
Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- ① Every living thing needs energy to stay alive. Almost all of that energy starts with the sun. Green plants use sunlight to make their own food, so they are called **producers**. Animals cannot make their own food. They have to eat other living things, so they are called **consumers**.



A food chain. Read the top row first, then the bottom row.

- ② A **food chain** shows how energy passes from one living thing to the next. Here is one. Grass grows in the sunlight. A grasshopper eats the grass. A frog eats the grasshopper. A snake eats the frog, and a hawk eats the snake. In this chain, the grasshopper is the primary consumer because it eats the producer. The frog is the secondary consumer, and the snake is the tertiary consumer. Nothing in this chain eats the hawk, so the hawk is the **apex predator**. In a food chain diagram, each arrow points from the food to the living thing that eats it.



The plants and animals in a woodland food web.

- ③ Consumers are grouped by what they eat. A **herbivore** eats only plants. A **carnivore** eats only other animals. An **omnivore** eats both. An animal that hunts other animals is a **predator**. The animal it hunts is its **prey**.
- ④ Most animals eat more than one kind of food, so one chain cannot show everything. A **food web** shows many food chains joined together. In one woodland food web, a rabbit eats grass and the leaves of a bush. A fox and a hawk both hunt the rabbit. If the rabbits died out, the fox and the hawk would have less to eat. An animal's level can change from chain to chain. A snake that eats a frog is a tertiary consumer. A snake that eats a plant-eating mouse is a secondary consumer.
- ⑤ Not all of the energy gets passed along. A living thing uses up most of the energy in its food to move and stay alive. That energy leaves its body as heat. Only a small part is stored in its body as it grows. That small part is all the next animal can get. When plants and animals die, **decomposers** such as fungi and bacteria break them down. This returns nutrients to the soil, where plants can use them again.

Who Eats What?: Questions

Go back to the text to find each answer. The paragraphs are numbered to help you.

1. What is this text mostly about?

- ☐ How hawks catch snakes
- ☐ How energy passes from one living thing to the next
- ☐ Why plants need soil
- ☐ How to care for a rabbit

2. Why are green plants called producers?

- ☐ They eat other living things.
- ☐ They break down dead plants and animals.
- ☐ They make their own food using sunlight.
- ☐ They hunt other animals.

3. Number these 1, 2 and 3 to show the order energy passes along the food chain (paragraph 2).

- ☐ Grasshopper
- ☐ Frog
- ☐ Grass

4. Which word names an animal that eats both plants and animals?

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivore
- ☐ Omnivore
- ☐ Producer

5. What is the difference between a predator and its prey?

6. How is a food web different from a food chain?

- ☐ It has no producers.
- ☐ It shows many food chains joined together.
- ☐ It shows only carnivores.
- ☐ It does not need the sun.

7. What would happen to the fox and the hawk if the rabbits died out?

8. What do decomposers do?

What Is Its Role?

Read how each living thing gets its food. Write its role. Every role is used more than once.

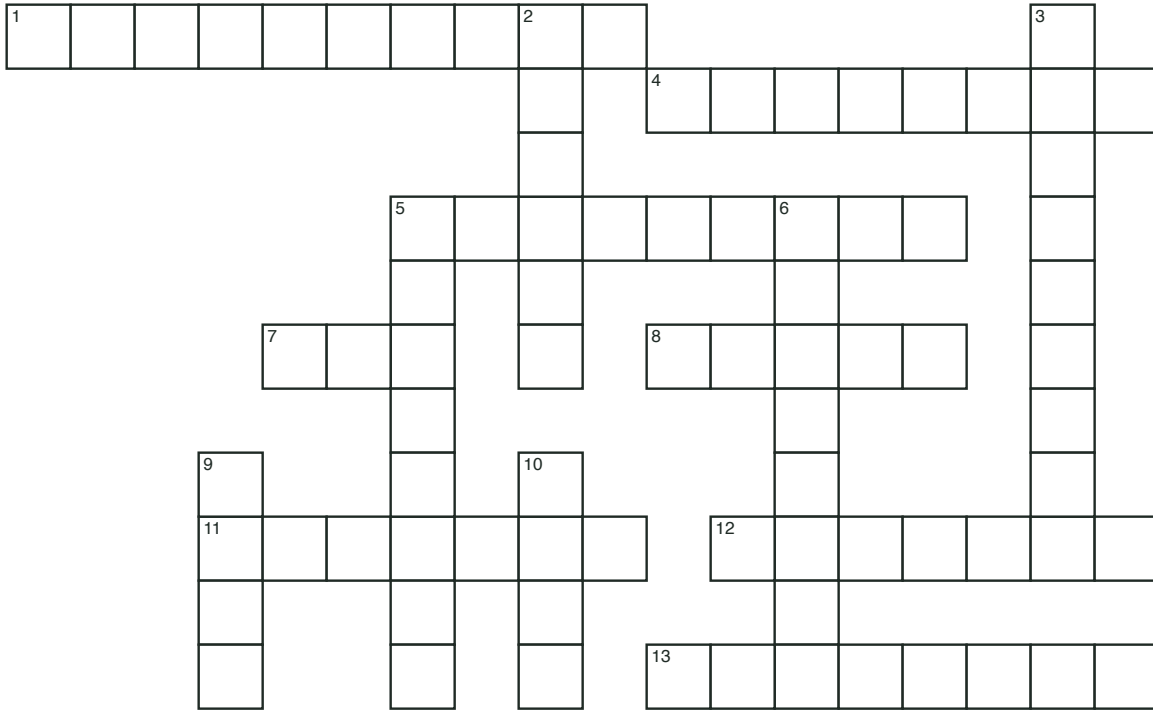
LIVING THING	HOW IT GETS ITS FOOD	ITS ROLE
1. Grass	It makes its own food using sunlight.	_____
2. Rabbit	It eats grass and the leaves of a bush.	_____
3. Fox	In this food web, it eats rabbits, which eat plants.	_____
4. Mushroom	It breaks down dead leaves and wood.	_____
5. Grasshopper	It eats grass.	_____
6. Frog	It eats grasshoppers, which eat grass.	_____
7. Berry bush	It makes its own food using sunlight.	_____
8. Mouse	In this food web, it eats berries from the bush.	_____
9. Soil bacteria	They break down dead plants and animals.	_____
Word bank Decomposer Primary consumer Producer Secondary consumer		

Your turn

Write a food chain with three living things from the table. Start with a producer. Draw an arrow from each living thing to the one that eats it.

Food Chains and Food Webs Crossword

Read each clue. Write the answer in the puzzle, one letter in each box. Use the word bank if you get stuck.



ACROSS

1. A living thing that breaks down dead plants and animals.
4. A living thing that makes its own food using sunlight.
5. An animal that eats only other animals.
7. Where the energy in almost every food chain starts.
8. The group that mushrooms and molds belong to. Many are decomposers.
11. A ____ consumer eats producers.
12. Many chains joined together to show what eats what in a habitat (2 words).
13. An animal that hunts other animals.

DOWN

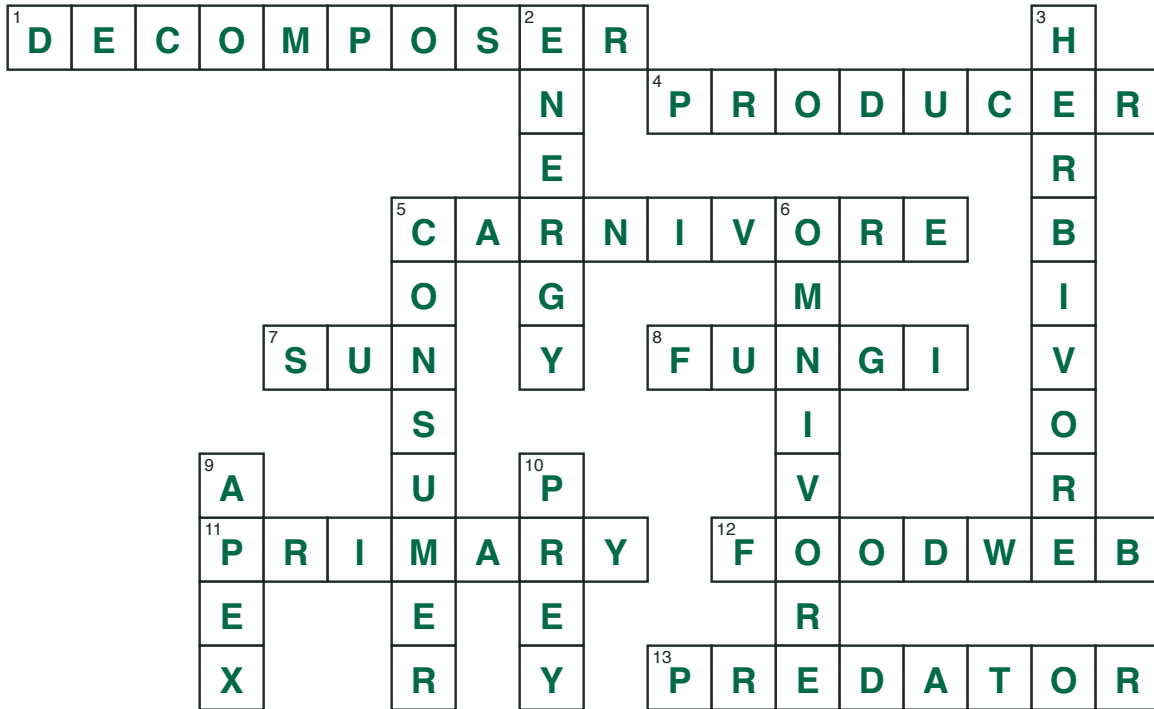
2. What living things get from their food.
3. An animal that eats only plants.
5. A living thing that eats other living things.
6. An animal that eats both plants and animals.
9. An ____ predator is at the end of a food chain. Nothing hunts it.
10. An animal that is hunted by another animal.

Word bank

apex carnivore consumer decomposer energy food web fungi herbivore
omnivore predator prey primary producer sun

Food Chains and Food Webs Crossword: Answer Key

Answers are in green.



ACROSS

1. A living thing that breaks down dead plants and animals.
4. A living thing that makes its own food using sunlight.
5. An animal that eats only other animals.
7. Where the energy in almost every food chain starts.
8. The group that mushrooms and molds belong to. Many are decomposers.
11. A _____ consumer eats producers.
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13. An animal that hunts other animals.

DOWN

2. What living things get from their food.
3. An animal that eats only plants.
5. A living thing that eats other living things.
6. An animal that eats both plants and animals.
9. An _____ predator is at the end of a food chain. Nothing hunts it.
10. An animal that is hunted by another animal.

Word bank

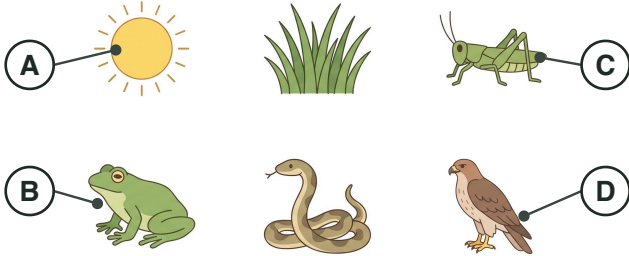
apex carnivore consumer decomposer energy food web fungi herbivore
omnivore predator prey primary producer sun

Food Chains and Food Webs Quiz

Score _____ / 12

The food chain in the picture starts with the sun. Read the top row first, then the bottom row.

Part A. This is a food chain. Write the name of each lettered link.



- A** _____
B _____
C _____
D _____

Apex predator · Primary consumer · Secondary consumer · Sun

Part B. Choose the best answer.

- In the food chain in Part A, the snake eats the frog. What is the snake?**
 - ☐ A producer
 - ☐ A primary consumer
 - ☐ A secondary consumer
 - ☐ A tertiary consumer
- Which of these is a producer?**
 - ☐ Grasshopper
 - ☐ Mushroom
 - ☐ Grass
 - ☐ Frog
- What is an animal that eats only plants called?**
 - ☐ A herbivore
 - ☐ A carnivore
 - ☐ An omnivore
 - ☐ A decomposer
- A bear eats berries and fish. What is a bear?**
 - ☐ A producer
 - ☐ A herbivore
 - ☐ A decomposer
 - ☐ An omnivore
- Which living things break down dead plants and animals?**
 - ☐ Producers
 - ☐ Predators
 - ☐ Decomposers
 - ☐ Herbivores
- In a food chain, an arrow points from the grass to the grasshopper. What does it show?**
 - ☐ The grass eats the grasshopper.
 - ☐ Energy moves from the grass to the grasshopper.
 - ☐ The grasshopper is bigger than the grass.
 - ☐ The grass grows after the grasshopper.

Part C. Write your answer.

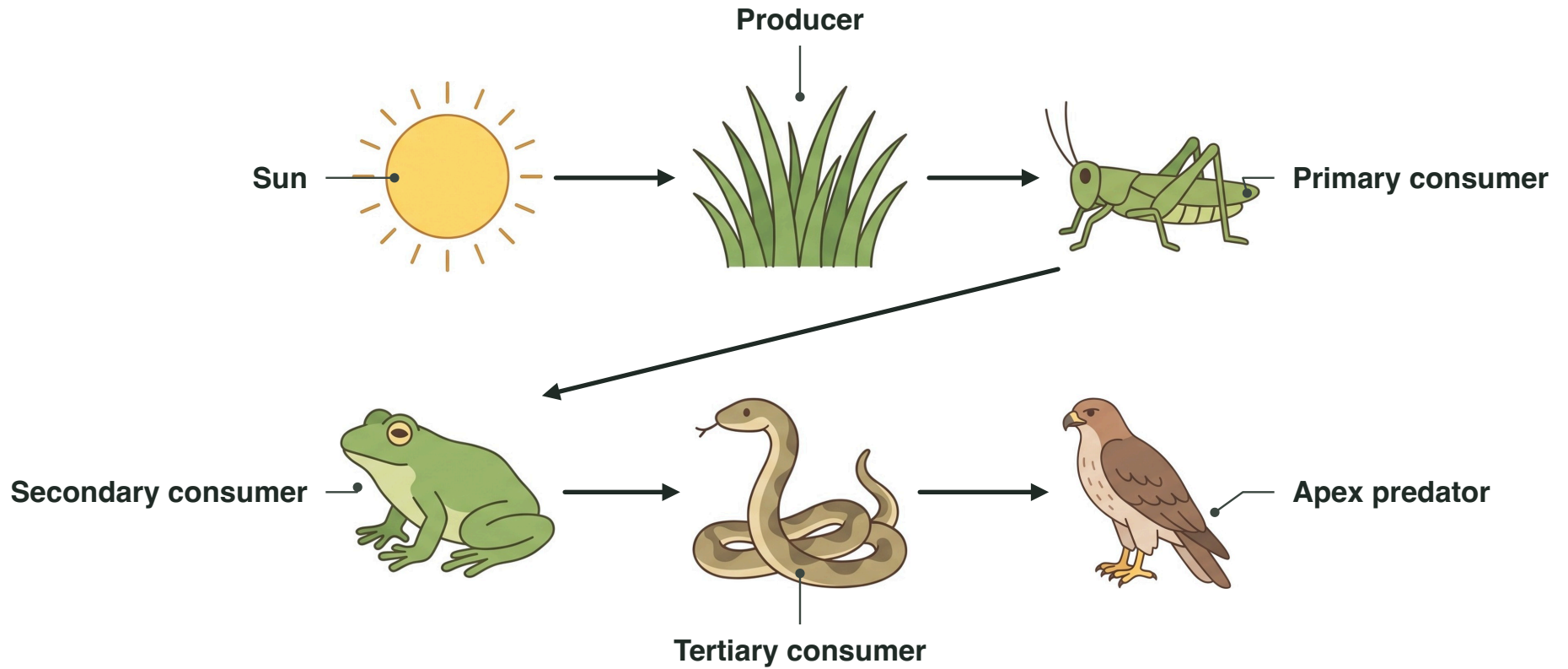
- 7. How is a food web different from a food chain?**

- 8. Why does only a small part of the energy in food pass on to the next animal?**

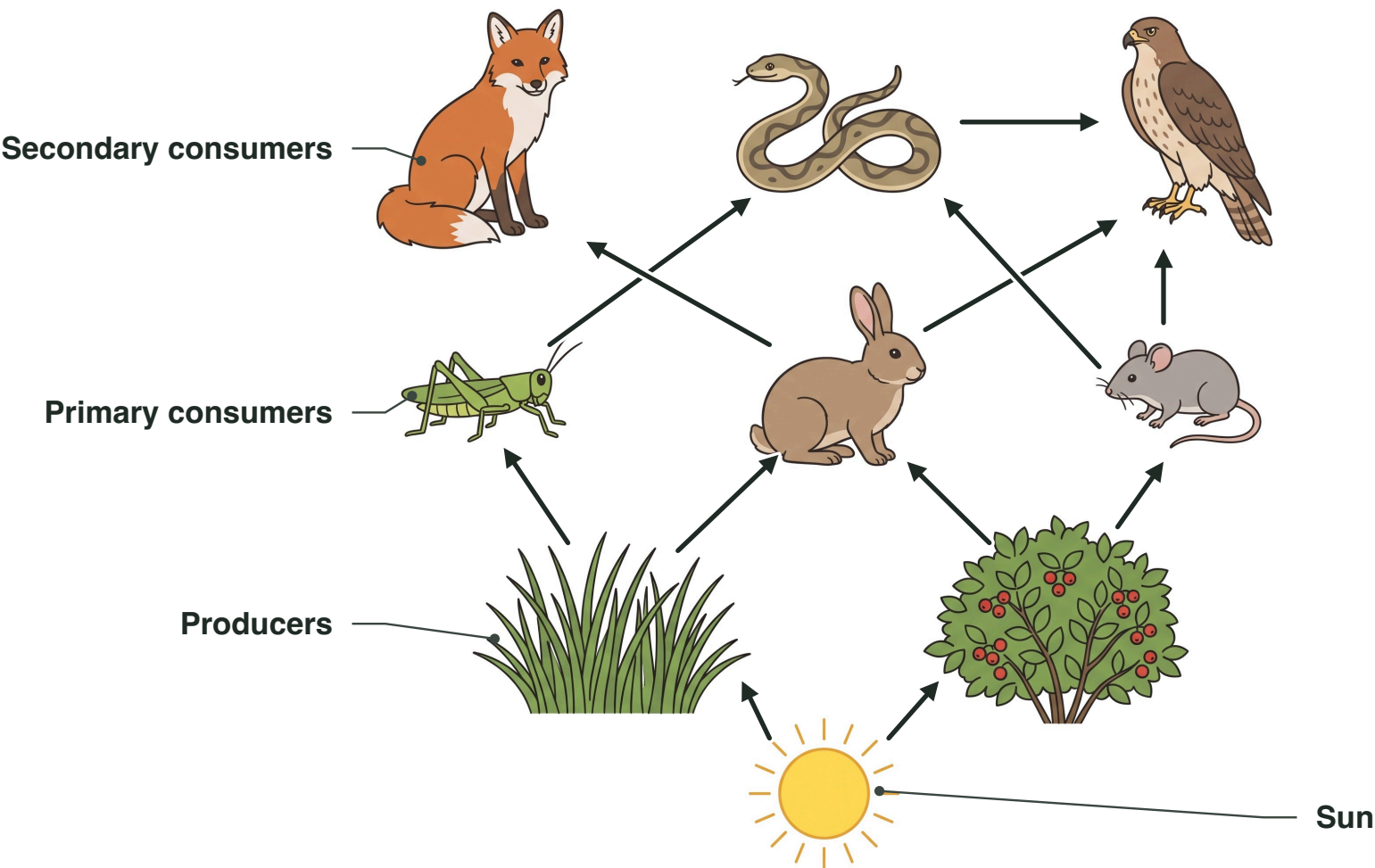
Answer Keys

In the same order as the sheets.

A Food Chain: Answer Key



A Food Web: Answer Key



Food Chain Words: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. Write the word that fits each description.

Word bank

Apex predator

Carnivore

Decomposer

Herbivore

Omnivore

Primary consumer

Producer

Secondary consumer

Sun

Tertiary consumer

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. The first animal in a food chain. It eats the plant. | Primary consumer |
| 2. An animal that eats both plants and animals. | Omnivore |
| 3. The source of energy for almost every food chain. | Sun |
| 4. The third animal in a food chain. It eats the secondary consumer. | Tertiary consumer |
| 5. An animal that eats only plants. | Herbivore |
| 6. A living thing, such as grass, that makes its own food using sunlight. | Producer |
| 7. A living thing, such as a mushroom, that breaks down dead plants and animals. | Decomposer |
| 8. The second animal in a food chain. It eats the primary consumer. | Secondary consumer |
| 9. An animal that eats only other animals. | Carnivore |
| 10. The hunter at the end of a food chain. Nothing else hunts it. | Apex predator |

Part B. Answer the questions.

1. In the food chain diagram, which living thing is the producer? Which is the primary consumer?
The grass is the producer. The grasshopper is the primary consumer.
2. Look at the food web diagram. Name the three primary consumers.
The grasshopper, the rabbit and the mouse.
3. The arrow between the grass and the grasshopper points at the grasshopper. What does the arrow show?
Energy moves from the grass to the grasshopper when the grasshopper eats the grass.

Who Eats What?: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

1. What is this text mostly about?

- ☐ How hawks catch snakes
- ☒ **How energy passes from one living thing to the next**
- ☐ Why plants need soil
- ☐ How to care for a rabbit

2. Why are green plants called producers?

- ☐ They eat other living things.
- ☐ They break down dead plants and animals.
- ☒ **They make their own food using sunlight.**
- ☐ They hunt other animals.

3. Number these 1, 2 and 3 to show the order energy passes along the food chain (paragraph 2).

- Grasshopper
- Frog
- Grass

4. Which word names an animal that eats both plants and animals?

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivore
- ☒ **Omnivore**
- ☐ Producer

5. What is the difference between a predator and its prey?

A predator hunts other animals. Its prey is the animal it hunts.

6. How is a food web different from a food chain?

- ☐ It has no producers.
- ☒ **It shows many food chains joined together.**
- ☐ It shows only carnivores.
- ☐ It does not need the sun.

7. What would happen to the fox and the hawk if the rabbits died out?

They would have less to eat.

8. What do decomposers do?

They break down dead plants and animals. This returns nutrients to the soil.

What Is Its Role?: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The last answer will vary; one example is given.

LIVING THING	HOW IT GETS ITS FOOD	ITS ROLE
1. Grass	It makes its own food using sunlight.	Producer
2. Rabbit	It eats grass and the leaves of a bush.	Primary consumer
3. Fox	In this food web, it eats rabbits, which eat plants.	Secondary consumer
4. Mushroom	It breaks down dead leaves and wood.	Decomposer
5. Grasshopper	It eats grass.	Primary consumer
6. Frog	It eats grasshoppers, which eat grass.	Secondary consumer
7. Berry bush	It makes its own food using sunlight.	Producer
8. Mouse	In this food web, it eats berries from the bush.	Primary consumer
9. Soil bacteria	They break down dead plants and animals.	Decomposer
Word bank Decomposer Primary consumer Producer Secondary consumer		

Your turn

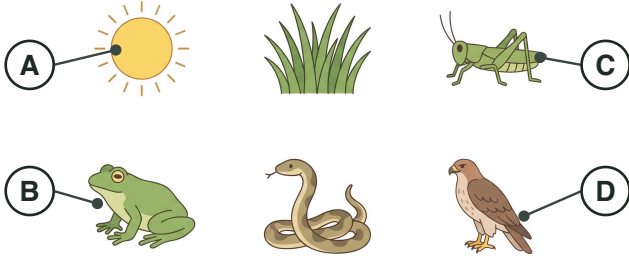
Write a food chain with three living things from the table. Start with a producer. Draw an arrow from each living thing to the one that eats it.

Answers will vary. Examples: grass, then grasshopper, then frog. Or grass, then rabbit, then fox.

Food Chains and Food Webs Quiz: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

Part A. This is a food chain. Write the name of each lettered link.



A **Sun**

B **Secondary consumer**

C **Primary consumer**

D **Apex predator**

Apex predator · Primary consumer · Secondary consumer · Sun

Part B. Choose the best answer.

1. In the food chain in Part A, the snake eats the frog. What is the snake?

- ☐ A producer
- ☐ A primary consumer
- ☐ A secondary consumer
- ☒ A tertiary consumer

2. Which of these is a producer?

- ☐ Grasshopper
- ☐ Mushroom
- ☒ Grass
- ☐ Frog

3. What is an animal that eats only plants called?

- ☒ A herbivore
- ☐ A carnivore
- ☐ An omnivore
- ☐ A decomposer

4. A bear eats berries and fish. What is a bear?

- ☐ A producer
- ☐ A herbivore
- ☐ A decomposer
- ☒ An omnivore

5. Which living things break down dead plants and animals?

- ☐ Producers
- ☐ Predators
- ☒ Decomposers
- ☐ Herbivores

6. In a food chain, an arrow points from the grass to the grasshopper. What does it show?

- ☐ The grass eats the grasshopper.
- ☒ Energy moves from the grass to the grasshopper.
- ☐ The grasshopper is bigger than the grass.
- ☐ The grass grows after the grasshopper.

Part C. Write your answer.

7. How is a food web different from a food chain?

A food chain is one line of what eats what. A food web shows many food chains joined together.

8. Why does only a small part of the energy in food pass on to the next animal?

A living thing uses up most of the energy in its food to move and stay alive. Only a small part is stored in its body.