

What Are Food Chains?

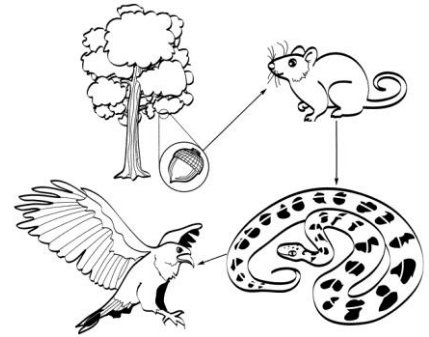
Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

food chain [FOOD CHAYN] the transfer of energy in a sequence of living things

Think of a keychain or a necklace. Each is made of links that are connected to one another. The links in a *food chain* are plants and animals. The links are connected in an order that shows which animal is eating which.



herbivore [HER•buh•vawr] a consumer that eats only plants

Herbivore contains the word *herb*. You may have eaten food made with herbs like pepper and mustard. Herbs are seasonings that come from plants. An *herbivore* is an animal that eats only plants.

carnivore [KAHR•nuh•vawr] a consumer that eats other animals

Carnivore and carnival sound almost alike. A carnival is a party or fair, usually with food. A carnival for *carnivores* does not include plants on the menu!

omnivore [AHM•nuh•vawr] a consumer that eats both plants and animals

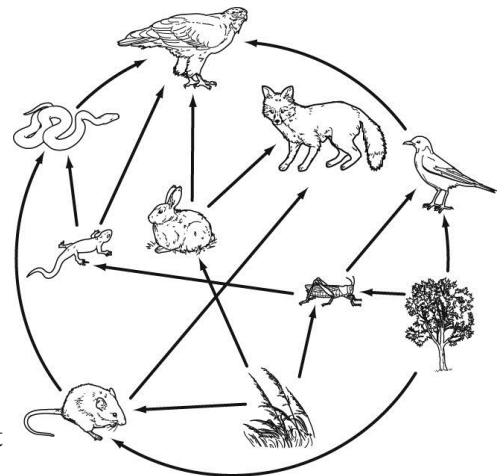
To remember what an omnivore is, think of this math sentence:

herbivore + carnivore = *omnivore*

Omnivore and *omniscient* begin the same way. Authors who are omniscient write as if they know everything about every character in a story, including what every character is thinking and feeling. An *omnivore* is like an omniscient eater!

food web [FOOD WEB] a model that shows the relationship among different food chains

Think of the threads holding a spider web together. The arrows showing who eats what in a *food web* make the *food web* look like a spider web.



This is a food web. The arrows that point to an animal represent food chains the animal is part of.

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Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. A food chain is the movement of food energy from plants to living things.
2. Producers are the first link in a food chain because they use energy from the sun to make food.
3. Some consumers, such as zebras and rabbits, are herbivores because they eat only plants.
4. Some consumers, such as panthers, are carnivores because they eat only other animals.
5. Living things that eat plants and other animals are omnivores.
6. Predators are animals that hunt other animals; lions are predators.
7. Prey are animals that are hunted and eaten by other animals; deer are prey.
8. Some animals are both predator and prey; for example, frogs eat insects, but are eaten by snakes.
9. A food web is a model that shows how different food chains are connected.
10. A change in one part of a food web can affect all the other parts of the web.