

Food Chain Cycle

2A

You eat food to get energy. Have you ever thought about what plants and animals eat to get energy? A food chain shows what plants and animals eat.

On a food chain, plants and animals are called **producers** and **consumers**. Producers make food to get energy. Consumers eat food to get energy. A food chain shows how that energy moves from producers to consumers.

Plants are producers. They make food using sunlight and nutrients. **Decomposers** make nutrients. They do this by breaking down rotting material. The grass in the picture is a producer. It makes food using sunlight and nutrients. The grass gets energy from its food.

Animals are consumers. They eat plants for food, other animals or both.

The mouse in the picture is a consumer. It eats the grass. By eating the grass, the mouse gets the energy that the grass made. The energy has moved from producer to consumer.

Stoats are also consumers. They eat mice. By eating mice, stoats get the energy that the mice got from eating the grass. The energy has moved from one consumer to another.

The fox is the top consumer. It eats stoats. By eating stoats, the fox gets the energy that the stoats got by eating the mice. The energy has moved to the top of the food chain.



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2B

Comprehension Questions

1. What do producers and consumers both need?
 - a. nutrients
 - b. sunlight
 - c. energy
2. A food chain is most likely to be topped with
 - a. a producer.
 - b. a consumer.
 - c. a decomposer.
3. **Decomposers** help plants
 - a. make food.
 - b. break down rotting material.
 - c. make sunlight.
4. Which of the following describes how energy moves?
 - a. from consumer to decomposer to producer
 - b. from producer to decomposer to consumer
 - c. from decomposer to producer to consumer
5. Food chains are important because
 - a. they show what animals produce.
 - b. they show how energy moves.
 - c. they show why animals eat.