

What Are Food Chains and Food Webs?

Worksheet

A food chain is a linear sequence showing energy transfer from producers to consumers (e.g. grass rabbit fox), while a food web is a network of many interconnected food chains within an ecosystem.

Questions

1. What is the first link in most food chains?
 - A) A carnivore
 - B) A producer
 - C) A decomposer
 - D) A tertiary consumer
2. What best describes a food web?
 - A) A single straight line of predators and prey
 - B) Many interconnected food chains in one ecosystem
 - C) Only the decomposers in an area
 - D) A chart of only producers
3. In the chain grass rabbit fox, what is the rabbit?
 - A) Producer
 - B) Primary consumer
 - C) Secondary consumer
 - D) Decomposer
4. What role do decomposers play in a food chain?
 - A) They produce energy from sunlight
 - B) They are always the top predator
 - C) They break down dead matter and recycle nutrients
 - D) They have no role in energy flow
5. Build a simple food chain from these organisms: fox, grass, rabbit.
6. In a food web, a hawk eats both snakes and rabbits, and snakes also eat rabbits. Why is this a web, not a simple chain?
7. If a disease wipes out most of the rabbits in an ecosystem, predict the effect on foxes and grass.
8. Define: What is a food chain?
9. Define: What is a food web?
10. Define: What is a producer?

Answer Key

1. B) A producer - Producers like plants start the chain by capturing solar energy.
2. B) Many interconnected food chains in one ecosystem - A food web links multiple overlapping food chains together.
3. B) Primary consumer - The rabbit eats the producer directly, making it a primary consumer.
4. C) They break down dead matter and recycle nutrients - Decomposers return nutrients from dead organisms to the ecosystem, supporting producers.
5. Start with the producer: grass (makes its own energy) Add the primary consumer: rabbit eats grass Add the secondary consumer: fox eats rabbit Chain: grass rabbit fox
6. There are multiple feeding paths: rabbit hawk, rabbit snake hawk A single organism (rabbit) is eaten by more than one predator (snake, hawk) These overlapping paths form a web instead of one straight line
7. Foxes lose a major food source, so their population likely declines Grass is eaten less, so its population likely increases This shows how removing one link affects multiple levels of the food chain
8. A linear sequence showing how energy passes from producers through a series of consumers.
9. A network of interconnected food chains showing the real feeding relationships in an ecosystem.
10. An organism, usually a plant or algae, that makes its own energy through photosynthesis.

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