

10.3 Food chains

Year 9 Ecology Homework

Name: _____

1 Use the words above each paragraph to fill in the blanks.

Producers – the beginning of the food chain

producers, photosynthesis, energy, Sun, trees, grass

Plants such as _____ and _____ are at the bottom of the food chain. They get their _____ from the _____ and are called _____ because they produce their own food via the process known as _____.

First order consumers – herbivores

deer, consumers, herbivores, mice, plants

Animals such as _____ and _____ are first order _____ because they get their energy from eating _____. These animals are known as _____ because they eat or consume herbs and plants.

Second and third order consumers – carnivores

owls, carnivores, predators, prey, foxes


Animals such as _____ and _____ are second and third order consumers because they eat animals. They are _____. They are the _____ that _____ on smaller animals.

The food chain

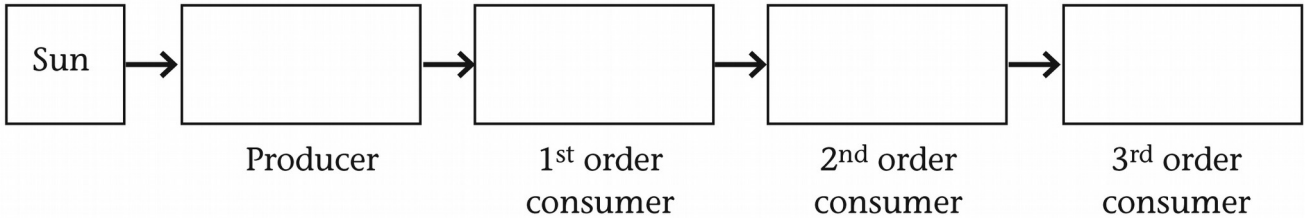
Sun, consumers, chain, web

We can trace the path of energy from the _____ to producers then first order _____ then second and third order consumers. They all link together to form a food _____. Most animals have a variety of organisms in their diet, so they belong to several food chains. All the food chains in a particular ecosystem make up a complex matrix called a food _____.

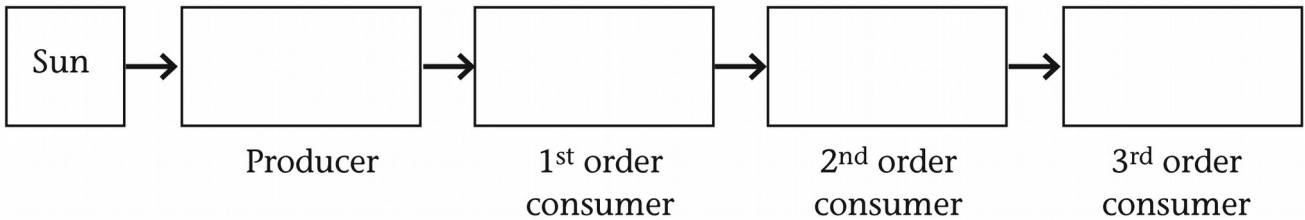
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continued 

2 Complete the food chain for the organisms pictured by writing their names in the correct boxes in the chain below.



3 Now use the information on the previous page to complete a different food chain.



4 What food chains do you think exist in the scene below? List them in your workbook.



10.4 Food webs

1 Use the food chains below to help you draw in the arrows to show energy flow through the food web.

- plant > cricket > spider > chicken > owl
- plant > parrot > owl > hawk
- weeds > parrot > hawk
- weeds > cricket > chicken > owl > hawk
- weeds > beetle > lizard > frog > snake > hawk
- weeds > beetle > spider > chicken > owl
- grass > beetle > lizard > frog > snake > hawk
- grass > beetle > spider > chicken > owl

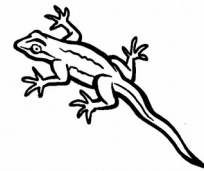
3rd order consumers



2nd order consumers



1st order consumers



Producers



2 In your own words, write a definition for the term 'food web'.
Use some examples from the diagram above.
