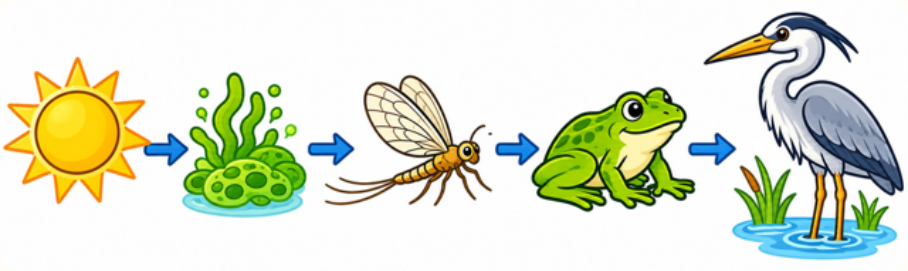
Food Chains

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **food chain** shows how **energy** moves. **Producers** make food, **consumers** eat, and **decomposers** break down dead things.

Arrow rule: the arrow points to the one that does the eating (frog → heron means the heron eats the frog).



Food Chains

A **food chain** shows how energy passes from one living thing to another when something is eaten.

Every food chain starts with the **Sun**. Plants use sunlight to make their own food, so they are called **producers**.

Animals can't make their own food, so they are **consumers**. They get energy by eating. Here is a pond food chain: **Sun → algae → mayfly → frog → heron**. The arrows point to the animal that gets the energy.

When plants and animals die, **decomposers** such as mushrooms, bacteria and worms break them down. This puts nutrients back into the soil, which helps new plants grow. In this way, nothing in nature goes to waste.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Where does every food chain start?

(a) With a plant (b) With the Sun (c) With a big animal

2. Why are plants called producers?

(a) They make their own food. (b) They eat animals.
(c) They break down dead things.

3. In the pond food chain, what does the frog eat?

(a) Algae (b) The heron (c) The mayfly

4. What do decomposers do?

(a) Make sunlight (b) Break down dead plants and animals (c) Hunt herons

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2. What role?

Circle the role each living thing plays.

1	grass	producer	consumer	decomposer
2	hawk	producer	consumer	decomposer
3	mushroom	producer	consumer	decomposer
4	oak tree	producer	consumer	decomposer
5	rabbit	producer	consumer	decomposer
6	earthworm	producer	consumer	decomposer

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **What might happen to the heron if all the frogs in the pond disappeared?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. Where does every food chain start?

(a) With a plant (b) **With the Sun** (c) With a big animal

2. Why are plants called producers?

(a) **They make their own food.** (b) They eat animals. (c) They break down dead things.

3. In the pond food chain, what does the frog eat?

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4. What do decomposers do?

(a) Make sunlight (b) **Break down dead plants and animals** (c) Hunt herons

2. What role?

1	grass	**producer**	consumer	decomposer
2	hawk	producer	**consumer**	decomposer
3	mushroom	producer	consumer	**decomposer**
4	oak tree	**producer**	consumer	decomposer
5	rabbit	producer	**consumer**	decomposer
6	earthworm	producer	consumer	**decomposer**

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **What might happen to the heron if all the frogs in the pond disappeared?**
   The heron would lose some of its food, so it might go hungry or have to move to find food somewhere else.