

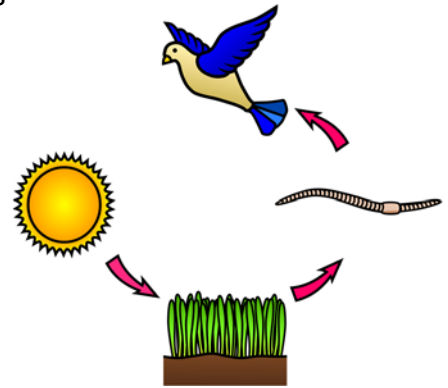
Name: _____

Food Chains

All living things are actually a part of a food chain. Living things are producers or consumers. A producer makes their own food like many plants do when they use the energy from the sun, water from the water cycle and nutrients from the soil.

Consumers on the other hand, don't make their own food but will depend on the producers for food. For instance, livestock such as cows, chickens and pigs will eat corn, grasses and hay because they cannot make food for themselves like many plants do. Food chains provide an excellent example of

how all living things are interdependent upon each other. People are consumers too, when they drink juice, the fruit to make the juice was made by a producing plant and when milk is drank by a consumer, it came from a cow. Producers and consumers are interdependent upon each other. A food chain is the sequence of who eat who or what. For instance, the sun makes energy for grass that gets eaten by the zebra that gets eaten by the lion. Or, grass that gets eaten by the cricket, which gets eaten by the snake which gets eaten by the owl. Or, the plankton in the ocean that gets eaten by the shrimp which gets eaten by the tuna which gets eaten by the dolphin which gets eaten by the shark These are all examples of the food chain. There are many, many food chains in the various habitats on earth. Animals that eat other animals are called predators and the animals they eat are called prey. Consumers are divided into three categories: herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. An herbivore only eats plants, and omnivore eats plants and mean and the carnivores only eat meat.



Questions:

- 1 Using your own words, define what a food chain is.
- 2 Provide one example of a food chain.
- 3 Why is a food chain considered an interdependent relationship?
- 4 What are the three types of consumers?
- 5 What type of consumer are you? Explain