

# FOOD WEB READING Comprehension Worksheet

**Direction:** Read and comprehend the passage and answer the questions that follow.

A food chain shows a linear sequence of organisms showing how energy or nutrients flow through an ecosystem when one organism consumes another for survival. It provides information about which species eats which other species in nature. Typically, a food chain is represented by a diagram where arrows show the direction of energy and nutrient flow. All living things get energy from the sun, which they use to produce their own food through photosynthesis. Some examples are green plants, algae, phytoplankton, and a few bacteria. Consumers are living things that eat other living things. Consumers can be grouped into herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.

Organisms in the food chain are divided into four trophic levels or feeding levels. They are producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, and tertiary consumers. An example is green plants producing food for themselves. A caterpillar eats the plant leaves, which small birds eat, snakes eat the bird, and a hawk eats the snake. This way, solar energy is carried up the food chain.

However, in reality, the relationship between them is much more complex. An organism can have multiple food sources (prey) and simultaneously be eaten by multiple predators. Such a relationship is represented pictorially using a food web. A food web consists of an ecosystem's interconnected and overlapping food chains. Each living organism is part of multiple food chains that shows a possible path that energy and nutrients follow as they move through the ecosystem.

Q1. Using your own words, define a food chain.

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Q2. Give one example of a food chain.

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Q3. Name the three types of consumers in a food chain.

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Q4. What is a food web? Why is it more realistic than a food chain?

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Q1. Using your own words, define a food chain.

A food chain is a linear relationship showing how energy flows through an ecosystem when one organism consumes another for survival.

Q2. Give one example of a food chain.

Plant → Caterpillar → Small bird → Snake → Hawk

Q3. Name the three types of consumers in a food chain.

Primary consumers, secondary consumers, and tertiary consumers.

Q4. What is a food web? Why is it more realistic than a food chain?

It is more realistic than a food chain because the relationship between the organisms in the different trophic levels may not be linear but interconnected.