

# Worksheet: The food chain

**Foundation Phase**  
**Grade 1-3**

**Learning area:** Natural Science  
**Specific Aim 2:** Investigating phenomena in natural sciences



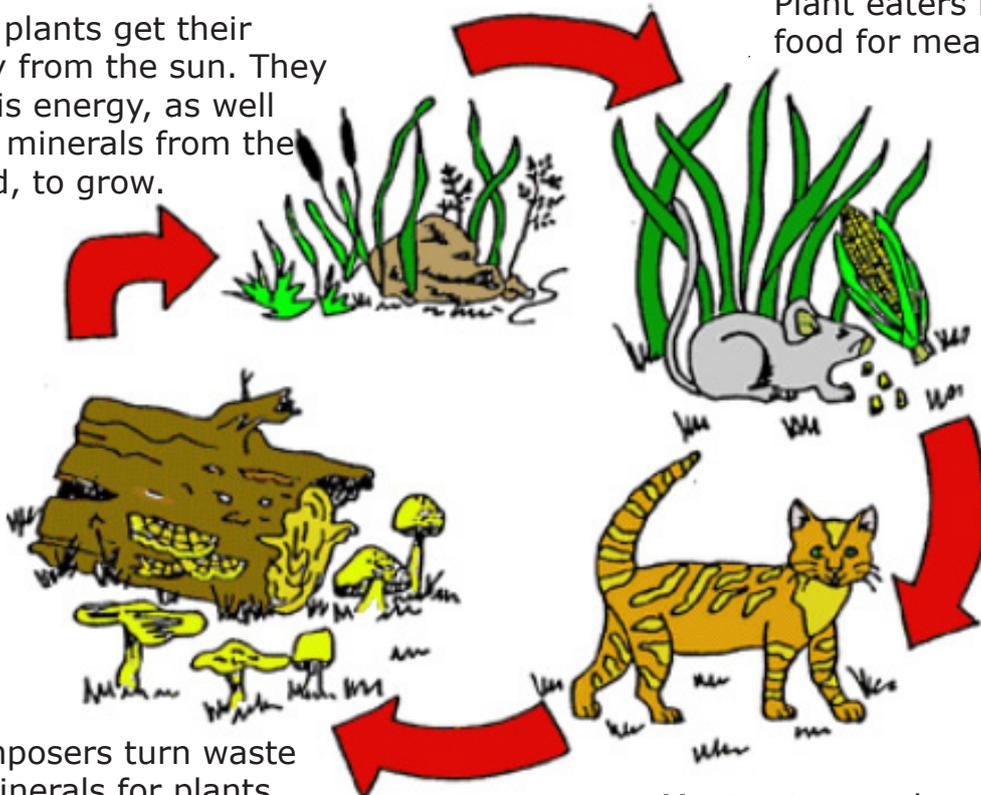
Activity Sheet



## Activity 1: What is a food chain?

Every time you run, jump or ride your bike, you are using up energy in your body. You get this energy from the food you eat. All living things get energy from their food so that they can move and grow. When food passes through the body, some of it is digested or broken down. This process releases energy into the body. All living organisms need to be part of a food chain in order to survive. A **food chain** shows how each living thing gets its food. Some animals eat plants, and some animals eat other animals. Each link in the chain is food for the next link. The picture below shows an example of a food chain.

Green plants get their energy from the sun. They use this energy, as well as the minerals from the ground, to grow.



Plant eaters become food for meat eaters.

Decomposers turn waste into minerals for plants to use.

Meat eaters make waste or die for decomposers to use.



**Producers** are the beginning of a food chain. Producers are plants and vegetables. They use energy from the sun to make food during photosynthesis.

**Consumers** are the next link in a food chain. Consumers cannot make their own food. They are divided according to what they eat. The first link starts with the animals that eat plants. They are called **herbivores**. The next link is those animals that eat the herbivores. Consumers that eat other animals are called **carnivores**. Animals that eat both animals and plants are called **omnivores**.

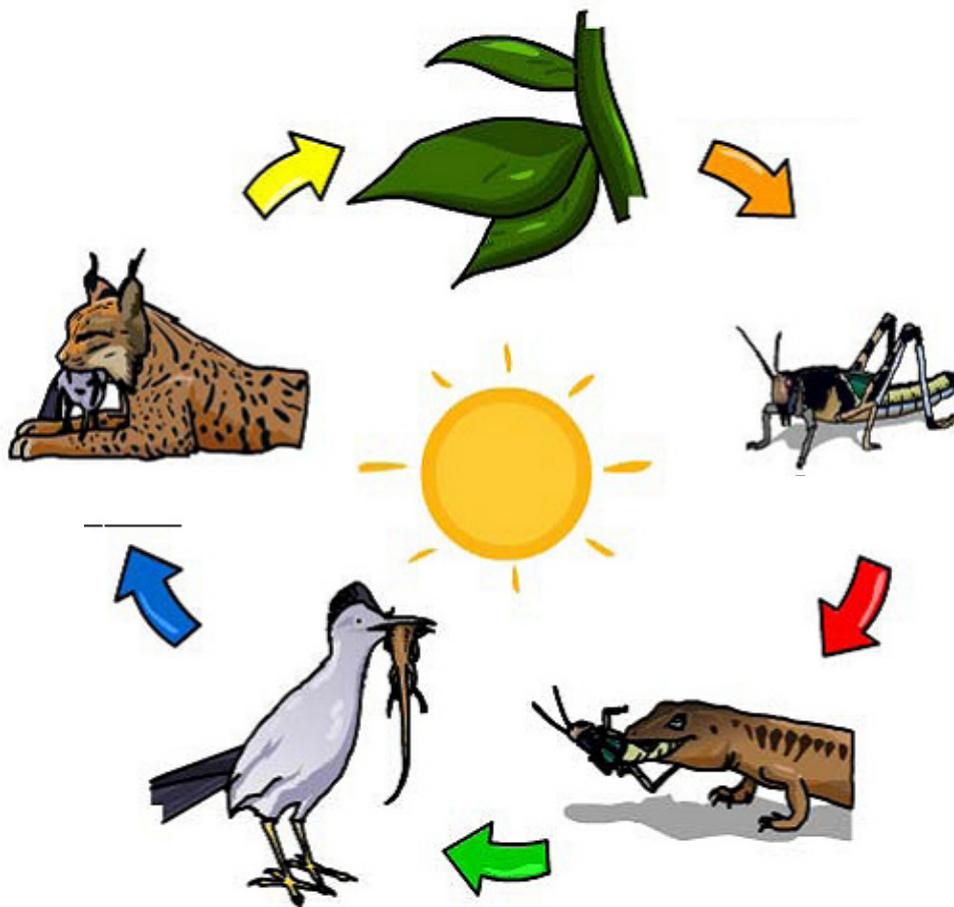
**Questions:**

1. What do you think is the main source of energy on Earth? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do the arrows in the picture below show us?

---

---





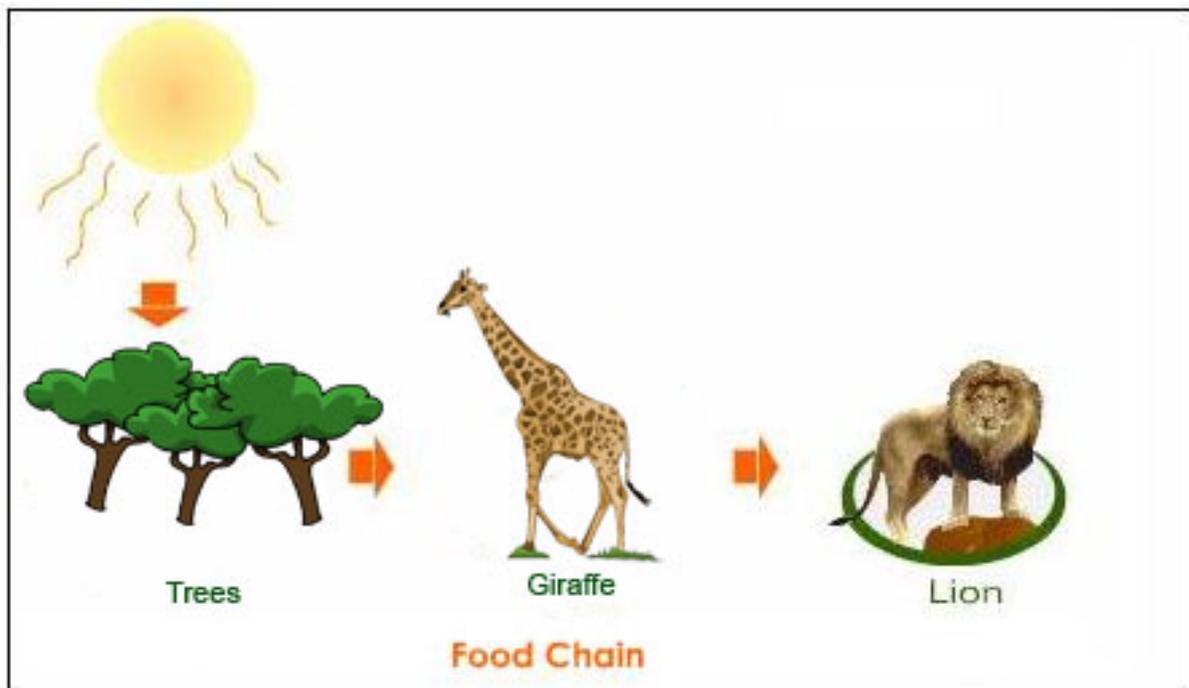
## Activity 2: Fossil Park food chains

1. Your teacher will give you a sheet with pictures of fossil animals that you learned about at the Fossil Park. Colour in each animal. Cut out the animals and select some of these pictures to make a food chain. Paste your food chain on a separate piece of paper.
  - a. Draw arrows between each link.
  - b. Label each link in the food chain.
2. Why do you think the fossil park animals became extinct?



## Activity 3: Man's impact on food chains

Humans can be helpful in many ways but can also cause lots of damage. They harm many living things, including plants and animals.



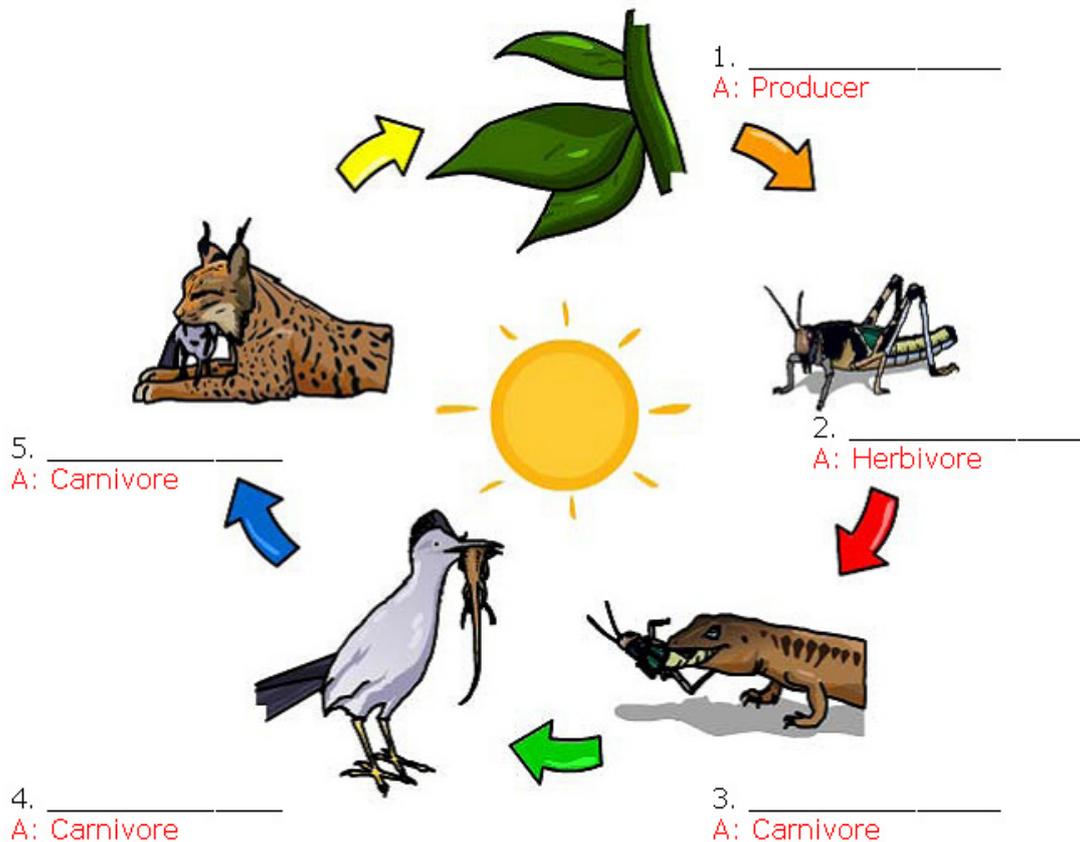
1. What will happen to the food chain if man cuts down all the trees?
2. What will happen to the food chain if man kills all the giraffes?
3. What will happen if man kills all the lions in the food chain?
4. What message can you give your friends about man and the environment?



# Teacher notes

## Activity 1: What is a food chain?

1. The Sun
2. They show how energy is transferred from one living organism to another.
3. Labels in the food chain.



4. Answer = 5
5. Answer = 4

## Activity 2: Fossil Park food chains

1. Learners own food chain
2. They were not able to survive because they could not adapt to changing conditions in their environment.

## Activity 3: Man's impact on food chains

1. There would be no vegetation for the browsing herbivores to eat and they will die.  
Feeders in the next link of the food chain will also die as they will not have any food to eat.



2. Certain trees that were adapted to grazing by the giraffes would become larger, and more common, which would affect the ability of other trees and plants to grow as they would be competing for sunlight and minerals from the soil. The lions and other predators which take giraffes will start eating other animals, which will impact the size of their populations.

3. Giraffes will breed unchecked, and will eventually run out of food when their population gets too large - a threat to their own existence. There will be a knock-on effect through to all the herbivores which eat similar vegetation to the giraffe as there will be increased competition. This in turn will affect the carnivores feeding on these animals as eventually populations will start to decline through starvation and other stresses brought on by large populations of herbivores.

4. We need to be responsible – eat responsibly and take care of our environment. We need to exploit this planet in a sustainable way.



# Food Chain

