

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science - Day 7

**Standard:**

3.L.5 The student will demonstrate an understanding of how the characteristics and changes in environments and habitats affect the diversity of organisms.

**Performance Indicator:**

3.L.5A.2 Develop and use a food chain model to classify organisms as producers, consumers, and decomposers and to describe how organisms obtain energy.

**I Can...**

- I can use a food chain to write about how each organism obtains its energy.
- I can create a model of a food chain.
- I can classify organisms as producers, consumers, and decomposers.

**Essential Questions:**

- What are consumers?
- What are producers?
- What are decomposers?
- How do producers, consumers, and decomposers obtain energy?
- What does a food chain look like that contains a producer, consumer, and decomposer?

**Engage:**

Read "How Do Animals Get Food?" to understand that different animals get food in different ways.

Compare and contrast the different ways animals get their food.

Read "What is a Food Chain?" to understand what a food chain is.

Look at and read the food chain example to have clarity on what a food chain looks like.

Make your own food chain.

# How Do Animals Get Food?

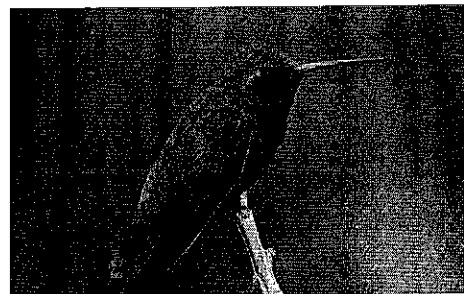
All **animals** need food for energy. However, all animals do not eat the same food. Deer eat plants, hawks eat mice, and birds eat worms. Every animal has features that help it get the kind of food it needs.

Some animals that live in the water are *filter feeders*. They filter food out of the water to eat. A humpback whale is an example of a filter feeder. A humpback takes in large amounts of water through its mouth. A special structure, which is like a strainer, catches plankton and small **fish** in the water for the whale to eat. Then the structure lets the water flow back out of the whale's mouth. Clams are also filter feeders. A clam brings water across its **gills**. Plankton gets trapped in the gills, and the clam eats it. Then the water leaves the clam.



A whale is a filter feeder. It gets energy by eating plankton and fish that it filters from the ocean water.

Other animals also have features that help them get food. An **earthworm** has muscles that allow it to dig through the dirt. As it digs, dirt enters the earthworm's mouth. The earthworm eats decomposing bits of matter out of the dirt. Then the dirt leaves the earthworm as waste.



A hummingbird has a long beak that allows it to get nectar from inside flowers.

Mosquitoes and leeches get energy by eating blood from animals. They have special mouthparts that allow them to suck blood from other organisms. Hummingbirds have special mouths, too. They have very long, thin beaks that allow them to drink nectar from deep inside flowers.

Some animals are *predators*. They must catch *prey* animals for food. Predators have features to help them catch their food. An octopus has tentacles that it uses to catch and kill its prey. An octopus eats crabs, scallops, and fish. Snakes have fangs that they use to inject poison into their prey to kill it. Lions can run quickly. They also have sharp teeth and claws to catch and kill their prey.

Predators, such as lions, have features that help them catch and kill their prey.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Compare and contrast how three animals from the text get their food.

Animal	How the animal gets its food.

What makes these animals alike and different as it pertains to how it gets its food?

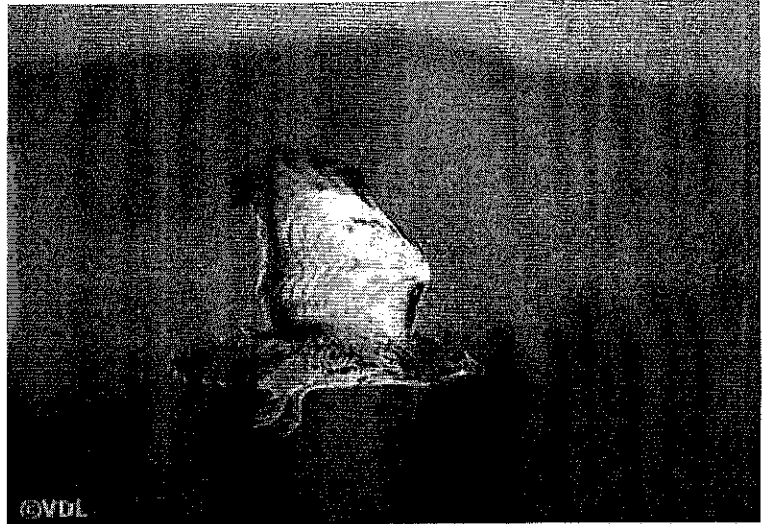
This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

## What Is a Food Chain?

In a habitat, living things are connected by what they eat. A rabbit eats grass. A snake eats rabbits. A hawk eats snakes. Bacteria feed on dead plants and animals. Each organism takes energy from the one before it.

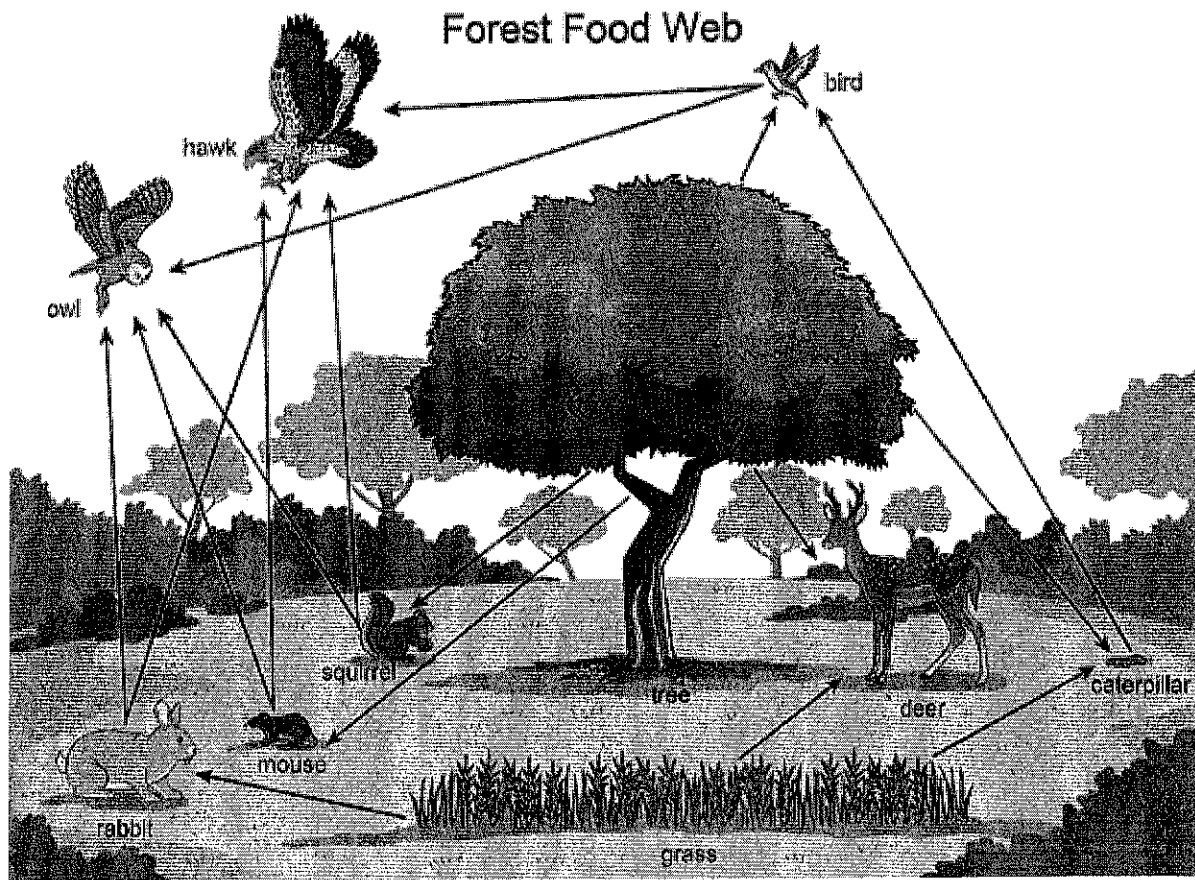
All living things need energy to survive. They get energy by making or eating food. Plants can make their own food from energy from the sun and nutrients from the soil. Animals cannot make their own food. Animals have to eat plants or other animals in order to get energy.

Scientists use diagrams called food chains to show how the food energy moves from organism to organism. Plants are the beginning of the food chain because they make their own food. The next step is an animal that eats plants, such as a mouse. The mouse gets energy from the grass it eats. The next step is an animal that eats mice, such as a fox. The fox gets energy from the mice it eats. Organisms such as bacteria and mushrooms get energy from breaking down grass, mice, and foxes after they die. These organisms also return nutrients to the soil. These nutrients are used by new plants as they grow.



This red tailed hawk feeds on small mammals such as mice.

## Example of a Food Chain (Web)



In this example, the tree and grass are examples of producers. They get their food from the Sun by photosynthesis.

Consumers are all of the animals in this picture. They all get their food from either plants (herbivores) or other animals (carnivores). If a consumer eats both plants and animals, it is considered an omnivore.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Use what you know about food chains to make one yourself! Draw at least 1 producer and 2 consumers and explain how they make a food chain.

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## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science - Day 8**

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### **I Can...**

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### **Essential Questions:**

- What are consumers?
- What are producers?
- What are decomposers?
- How do producers, consumers, and decomposers obtain energy?
- What does a food chain look like that contains a producer, consumer, and decomposer?

### **Engage:**

Read "Producers and Consumers" for your child to understand what producers and consumers are in the environment.

Read "Decomposers" for your child to understand what a decomposer is in the environment.

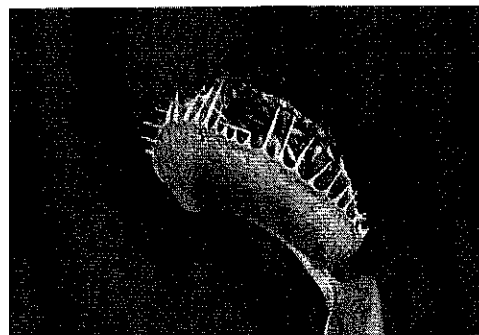
Complete the "Plants & Animals & Food Chains Oh My!" activity.

All organisms need energy to live and to carry out daily tasks. They get this energy from food. Scientists can classify living things based on the way they get their food. For example, **producers** can make their own food, but **consumers** have to find food in their environment.

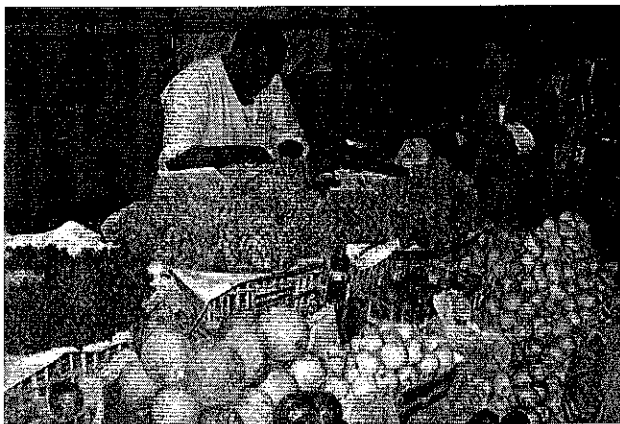
Plants are producers. They make their own food through *photosynthesis*. During photosynthesis, the plant uses sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to make sugar and oxygen. Plants use the energy in the sugar to live, grow, and reproduce.

Scientists divide consumers into three categories based on the type of food they eat. *Herbivores* eat mostly plants. Deer, horses, and grasshoppers are examples of herbivores. *Carnivores* eat mostly other animals. Tigers and hawks are examples of carnivores. Some consumers eat both plants and animals. They are called *omnivores*. Chimpanzees and woodpeckers are omnivores.

A few types of plants are not only producers, but consumers as well. You may be familiar with the Venus flytrap. It is a plant that has special leaves for trapping insects. When an insect lands on an open leaf, the leaf snaps shut and traps the insect inside. The plant is able to digest the insect slowly over time. The Venus flytrap absorbs and uses the nutrients from the insect.



The Venus flytrap gets energy from the food it makes during photosynthesis. It gets some nutrients from insects.



What kind of consumer are you?



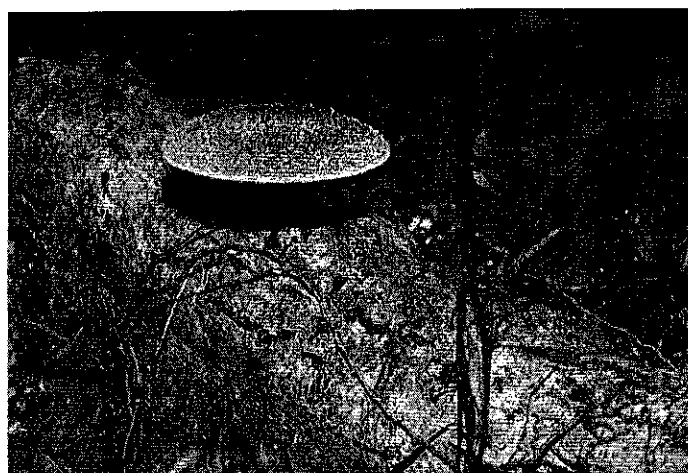
Have you ever seen mold growing on an old piece of bread? Maybe you have seen a moldy peach or orange. Food becomes moldy because of living things called **decomposers**. Decomposers may spoil your food, but they are an important part of nature.



Mold on food is a decomposer called fungi.

Decomposers are living things such as bacteria, fungi, insects, and earthworms. In nature, decomposers feed on dead plants and animals. When plants and animals die, decomposers break them down into small parts called nutrients. They use some of these nutrients for energy to live. However, they also put some of the nutrients into the **soil**. Plants use the nutrients in the soil to help them grow.

What would Earth be like without decomposers? Without decomposers, Earth would have piles of dead plants and animals. There would be no living things to break them down. In addition, nutrients in dead plants and animals would not return to the soil. This would make it hard for new plants to grow.



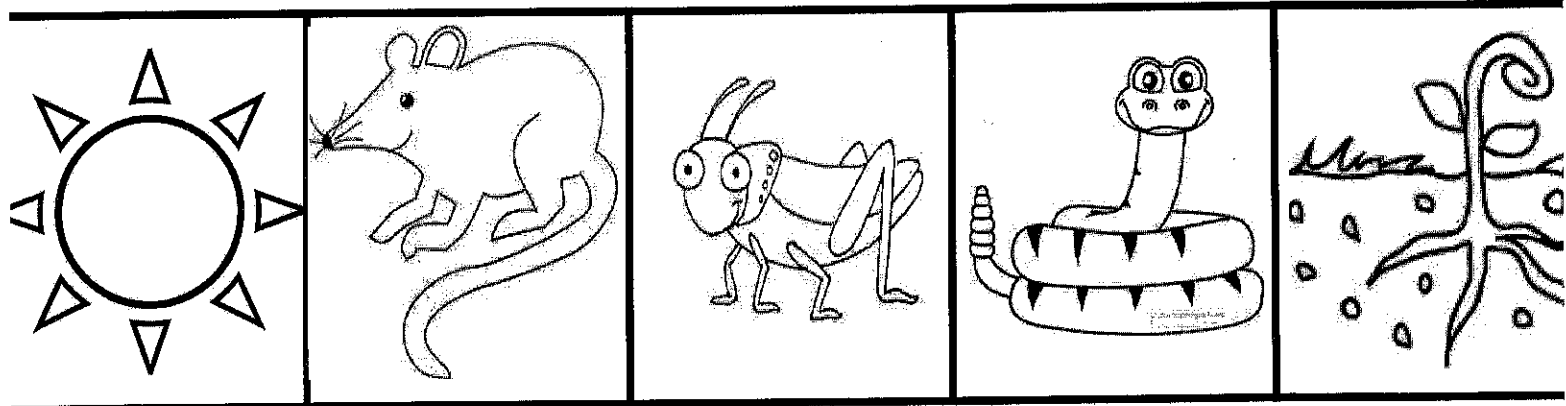
Mushrooms are also decomposers called fungi. They break down dead plants and animals. They also return nutrients to the soil so that plants can use them.

# Plants & Animals & Food Chains oh My!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place the objects in order of how the energy flows, starting with the sun.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Essential Questions:

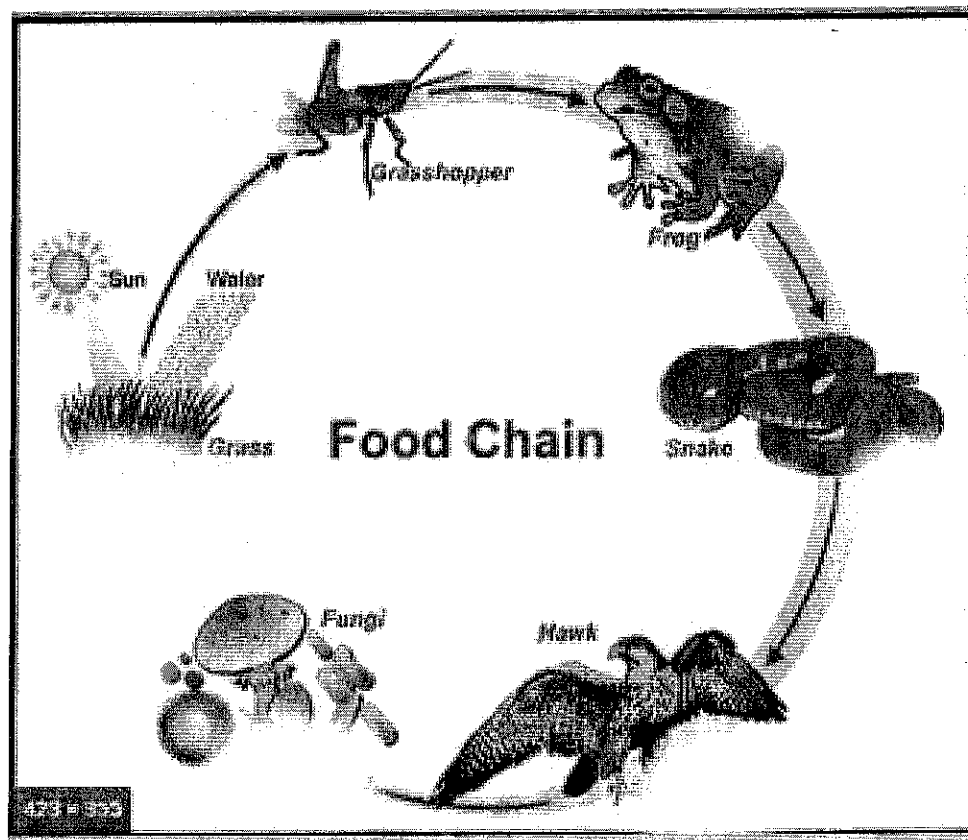
- What are consumers?
- What are producers?
- What are decomposers?
- How do producers, consumers, and decomposers obtain energy?
- What does a food chain look like that contains a producer, consumer, and decomposer?

Engage:

Have your child complete the Food Chain. He/she may use the previous texts and activities to assist in making sure this activity is accurate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Use the food chain given below to explain how each organism gets its energy. Be sure to include whether each is a producer, consumer, or decomposer.



Organism	How it gets its food	Producer / Consumer / Decomposer
Grass		
Grasshopper		
Frog		
Snake		
Hawk		
Mushroom (Fungi)		

# **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science - Day 9 & 10**

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- What does a food chain look like that contains a producer, consumer, and decomposer?

## **Engage:**

Have your child complete the **Food Chain Brochure**. He/she may use the previous texts and activities to assist in making sure this activity is accurate.

Photosynthesis

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Every organism needs

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to live.

Predator

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Prey

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# Food Chain

What is a food chain?

VS.

What is a food web?

Name

Date

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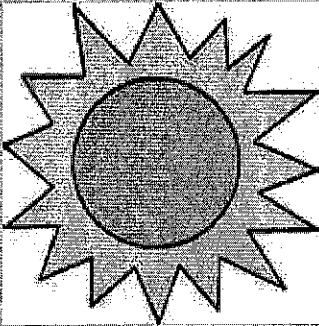
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*Model of a Food Chain*

*Types of Consumers*

*The sun's role*



# **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science – Day 11**

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Essential Questions:

- What are consumers?
- What are producers?
- What are decomposers?
- How do producers, consumers, and decomposers obtain energy?
- What does a food chain look like that contains a producer, consumer, and decomposer?

Engage:

Have your child complete the following assessment.



name \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

### **3.L.5A.2 Food Chains**

**1. Which type of organism makes its own food?**

- a. consumer
- b. herbivore
- c. producer
- d. omnivore

**2 An organism that eats other organisms is a \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. vegetarian
- b. plant
- c. producer
- d. consumer

**3 To live and grow, every living thing needs \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. sunlight
- b. producers
- c. energy
- d. camouflage

**4 What breaks down dead organisms?**

- a. predators
- b. consumers
- c. producers
- d. decomposers

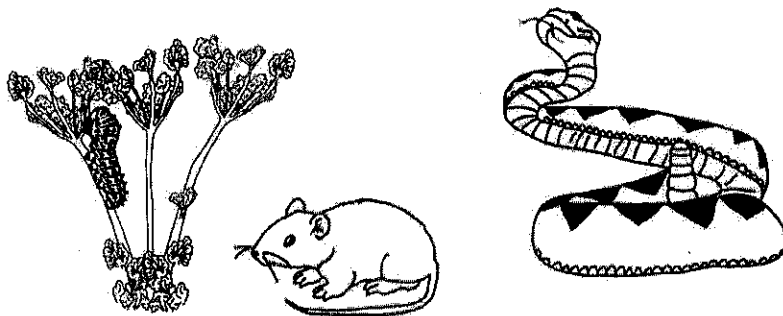
**5 What are bacteria, molds, and worms?**

- a. decomposers
- b. producers
- c. attributes
- d. food chains

6 A producer \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. makes its own food
- b. eats mostly plants
- c. eats other organisms
- d. breaks down dead organisms

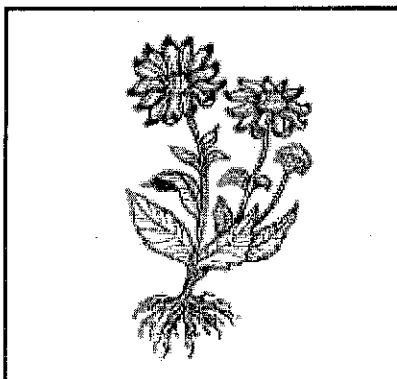
7 In the picture below, what is a producer?



A Food Chain

- a. snake
- b. plant
- c. mouse
- d. insect

8 Decomposers put \_\_\_\_\_ into the soil that are used by new plants.

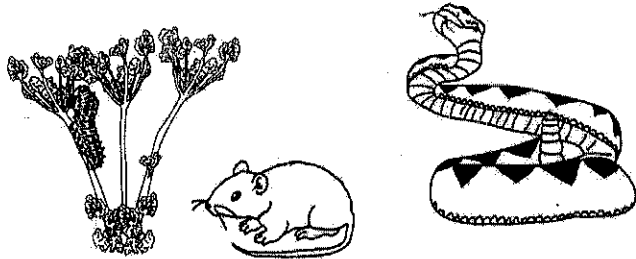


- a. bacteria
- b. roots
- c. nutrients
- d. producers

9 Producers make food from water, air, and energy from \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. sugar
- b. sunlight
- c. plants
- d. electricity

10 In this food chain, which animals depend on plants for food?



A Food Chain

- a. caterpillar only
- b. caterpillar and mouse only
- c. caterpillar, mouse, and snake
- d. mouse only