

SCIENCE · GRADES 4–5

Food Chains and Webs

Energy flow through an ecosystem

Vocabulary

1

Producer

A living thing that makes its own food using sunlight.

Example: Grass, oak tree, kelp

2

Consumer

A living thing that eats other living things.

Example: Rabbit, lion, shark

3

Herbivore

A consumer that eats only plants.

Example: Cow, deer

4

Carnivore

A consumer that eats only animals.

Example: Wolf, eagle

5

Omnivore

A consumer that eats both.

Example: Bear, human

6

Decomposer

Breaks down dead plants and animals.

Example: Mushroom, worm



7

Predator

An animal that hunts another.

Example: Lion → zebra

8

Prey

An animal that is hunted.

Example: Zebra, mouse

Apply

1. Build a food chain with: hawk, mouse, grass, snake.
2. Where does ALL energy in a food chain come from?
3. What would happen if all decomposers disappeared?
4. Is a tiger a predator, prey, or both? Explain.

