

Lesson 9

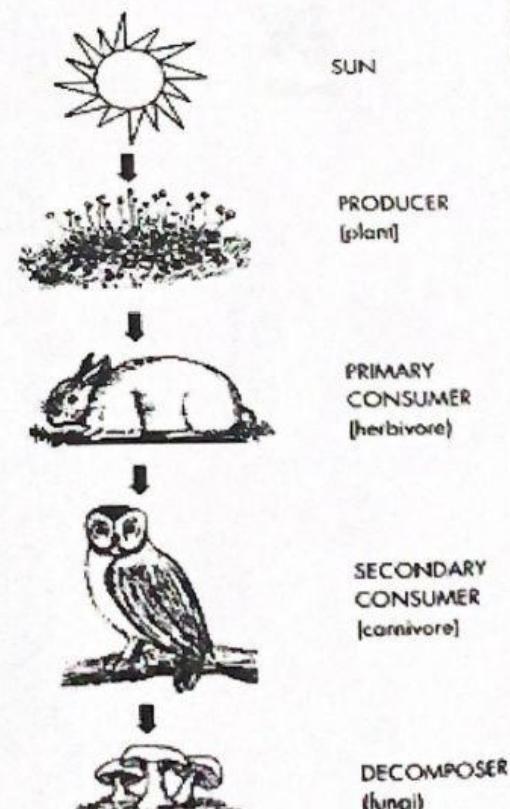
Food Chain and Web

All living things need energy to live. Living things get their energy from **food**. A **food chain** is the flow of food in an ecosystem from one living thing to another. A food chain also shows how energy moves through the environment. The energy that the plant gets from the sun is transferred to all of the animals in the chain, this is called **energy transformation**.

Living things in an ecosystem can be classified as **producers**, **consumers** and **decomposer**. **Producers** are plants; they make their own food. **Consumers** are animals; they eat other living things as food. **Decomposers** are living things such as mushrooms and earthworms; they break down dead plants and animals for food. The name for animals that eat only plants is a **herbivore**. The name for animals that eat only meat are called **carnivores**. The name for animals that eat both plants and meat are called **omnivores**.

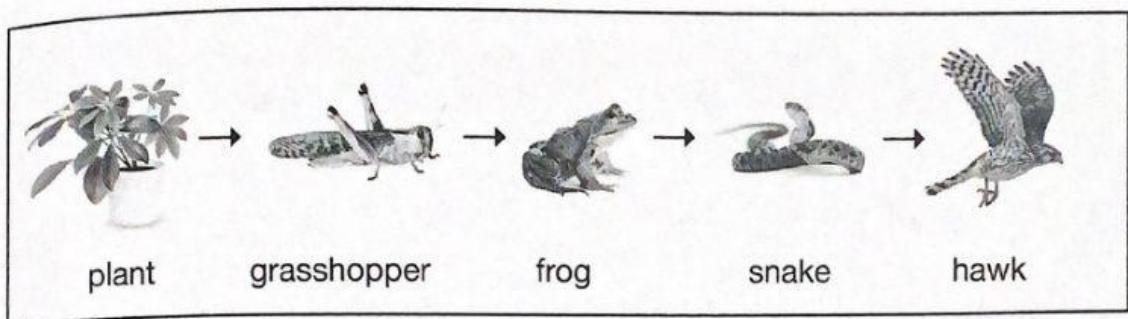
The food chain begins with a **green plant**, the producer. It continues with an animal, the consumer that eats the green plant. A food chain may include one or more other consumers. Therefore, the energy that the plant gets from the sun is transferred to all of the animals in the chain, this is called **energy transfer**.

A **food web** is a combination of several food chains.



INTERACTIONS IN AN ECOSYSTEM

Observe the diagram in the box.



1. In ecosystems, energy moves from organism to organism. The diagram

shown above is a representation of a _____ . [1]

2. Give the definition of the following terms:

A predator _____ [1]

A prey _____ [1]

3. Animals such as vultures and hyenas are important to an ecosystem because they are scavenger decomposers. Define the term '**decomposer**'.

_____ [2]

4. Use the words from the box to complete the chart showing the types of consumers that are found in an ecosystem. [3]

Herbivore	Carnivore	Omnivore
Type of Consumer	Definition	
	Animal that eat only meat.	
	Animals that eat both plants and animals.	
	Animals that eat only plants.	