SCIENCE

Food chains

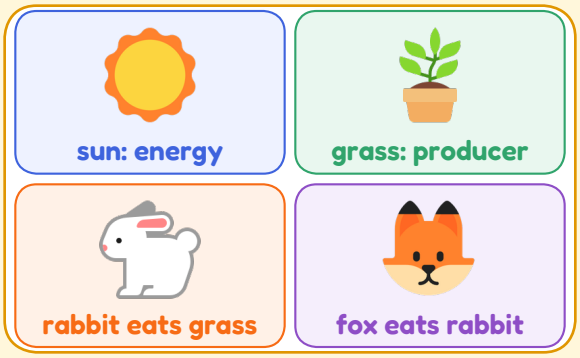


Name _____ Date _____

🎯 **I can build a food chain and explain what the arrows mean.**

1 How it works 💡

A food chain shows how energy moves from one living thing to the next. It starts with the sun and a producer, like grass. The arrows point from the food to the eater: grass, then rabbit, then fox means the rabbit eats the grass and the fox eats the rabbit. Each arrow means "gives energy to".



2 Put each food chain in order ✏️

Write 1 for the producer, then 2, 3, 4.

1. carrot ☐ rabbit ☐ fox ☐

2. owl ☐ acorns ☐ mouse ☐

3. frog ☐ beetle ☐ leaf ☐ snake ☐

4. corn ☐ eagle ☐ snake ☐ mouse ☐

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Break the chain



Name _____ Date _____

I can predict what happens when a food chain changes.

1 What would happen? Circle one.



If the grass dried up, there would be _____ rabbits. more fewer



If the rabbits went away, there would be _____ foxes. more fewer



If there were no foxes, there might be _____ rabbits. more fewer



If there were lots more rabbits, there would be _____ carrots. more fewer

2 Make your own food chain

Draw 4 living things and add the arrows.

1: a producer

How did I do?

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Think like a scientist



Name _____ Date _____

🎯 **I can explain how energy moves through a food chain.**

1 Think about it ❓

1. Why does a food chain start with a plant? _____
2. What does each arrow mean? _____
3. What eats the rabbit in our chain? _____
4. What would happen to foxes with no grass? _____

2 True or false? Circle it. ✅

1. Energy moves from plants to animals.	true	false
2. Every food chain starts with the sun.	true	false
3. The arrow points to the animal that eats.	true	false
4. A food chain can start with a fox.	true	false
5. A fox is a producer.	true	false

3 Draw an ocean food chain with arrows. Start with the sun.



How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Try it: the paper chain food chain

Name _____ Date _____

🎯 **I can show what happens when one link in a food chain breaks.**

1 You need 📦

- strips of paper
- tape or a stapler
- crayons
- a partner
- a pencil

2 What to do

1. Write sun, grass, rabbit and fox on four strips. Draw each one.
2. Make a paper chain in that order, from the sun to the fox.
3. Hold the fox end and lift the chain. Then tear the grass link.
4. Talk about it: what can the rabbit and the fox eat now?

3 I predict 💡

What happens to the fox if the grass link breaks?

4 What I see 🔍

Link that broke	What happens?	Why?
grass		
rabbit		
sun		

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: food chains

1 Page 1

Order: 1) carrot, then rabbit, then fox; 2) acorns, then mouse, then owl; 3) leaf, then beetle, then frog, then snake; 4) corn, then mouse, then snake, then eagle.

2 Page 2

What if: 1) fewer; 2) fewer; 3) more; 4) fewer.

My food chain: answers will vary. It must start with a producer (a plant), and every arrow must point to the eater.

3 Page 3

Think: 1) Plants make food from sunlight; 2) Gives energy to, or is eaten by; 3) The fox; 4) Fewer rabbits, so fewer foxes.

True or false: 1) true; 2) true; 3) true; 4) false; 5) false.

Drawing: answers will vary, for example sun, seaweed, small fish, big fish, shark, with arrows pointing to the eater.

4 Page 4: Try it!

When the grass link breaks, the rabbit loses its food, and then the fox loses the rabbit. Every animal above the broken link is in trouble. When the sun link breaks, the whole chain falls, because all of the energy comes from the sun in the first place.

5 Teaching tip 💡

Children often draw the arrows backward. Teach the phrase "is eaten by": grass is eaten by the rabbit, so the arrow points to the rabbit.

Safety: take care with scissors and staplers.

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