

Food Chains and Food Webs Learning Guide



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LESSON 1

ENERGY FLOW

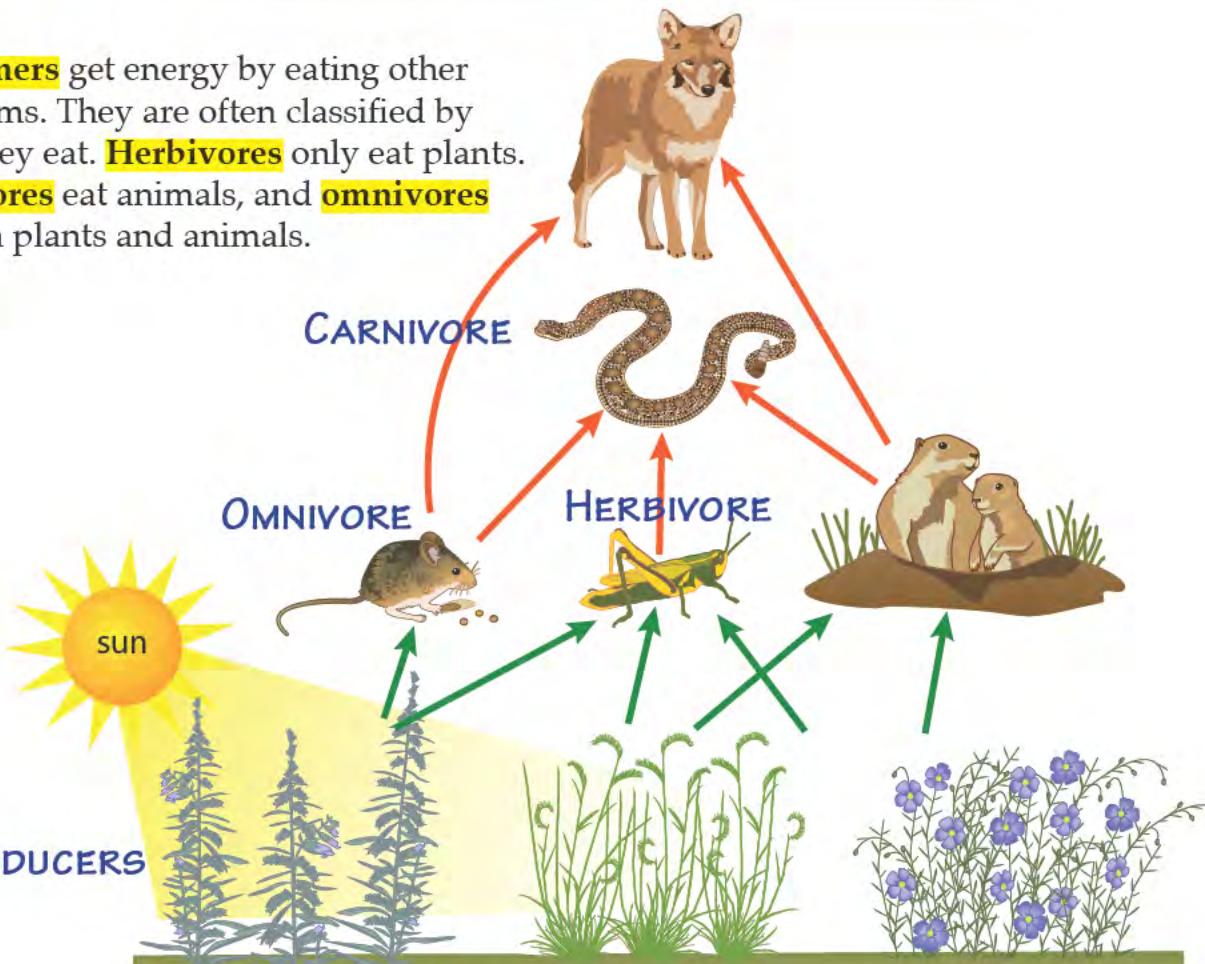
An **ecosystem** is a group of organisms and their physical environment. All organisms within an ecosystem need energy to survive.

Organisms obtain energy from different sources. Each organism plays a role in the **flow of energy** through the ecosystem.

Producers make their own food through the process of **photosynthesis**. Plants, algae and some bacteria are producers that use the Sun's energy to make food.

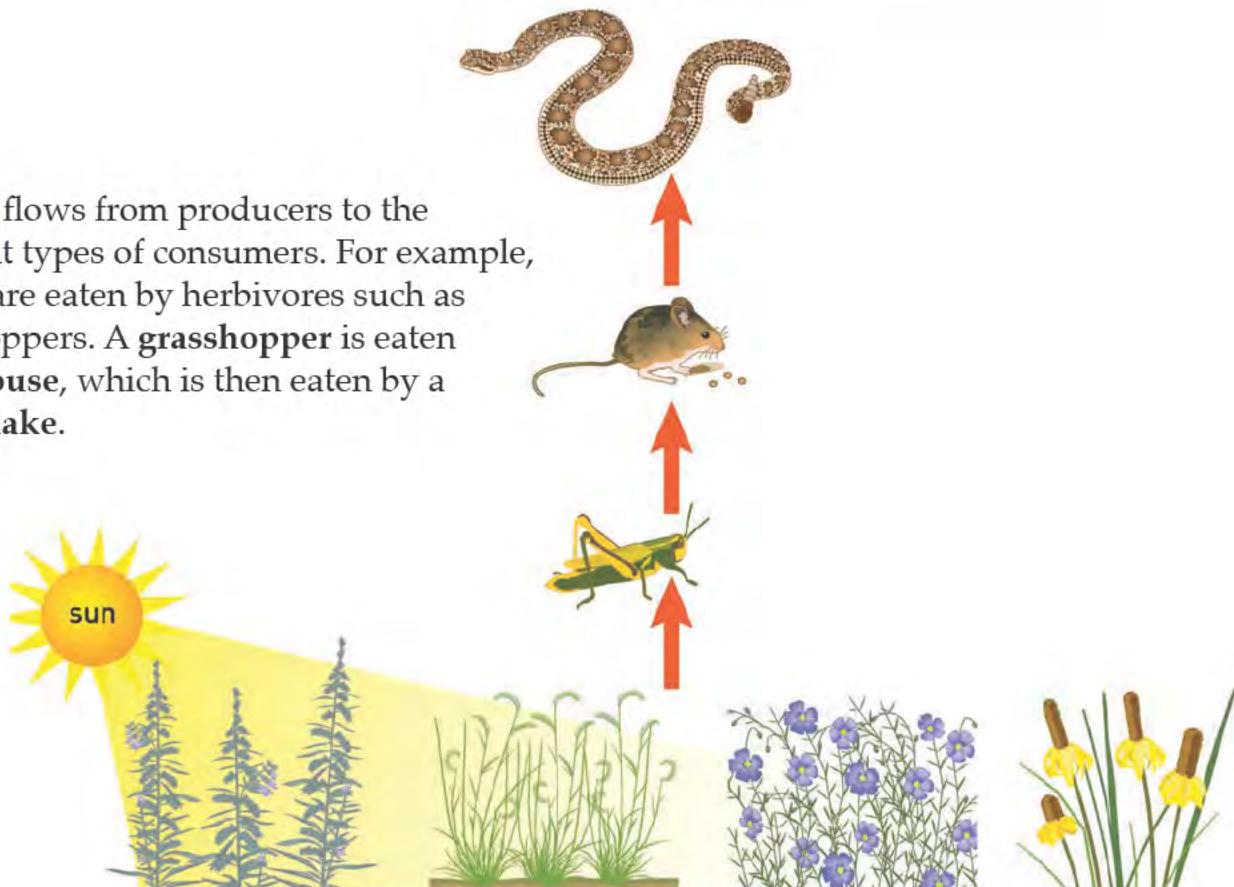


Consumers get energy by eating other organisms. They are often classified by what they eat. **Herbivores** only eat plants. **Carnivores** eat animals, and **omnivores** eat both plants and animals.



ENERGY FLOW

Energy flows from producers to the different types of consumers. For example, **plants** are eaten by herbivores such as **grasshoppers**. A **grasshopper** is eaten by a **mouse**, which is then eaten by a **rattlesnake**.



Decomposers obtain energy by eating or absorbing nutrients found in animal waste and dead bodies. Bacteria, fungi and worms are decomposers that help return raw materials to an ecosystem.

