

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

### FOOD CHAINS AND FOOD WEBS

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the following word bank to match the term with its definition.

tertiary consumer	producer	decomposer	secondary consumer
heterotroph	autotroph	carnivore	primary consumer
trophic levels	herbivore	food chain	energy source

- The transfer of food energy from plants to one or more animals in a linear sequence is known as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- An organism that uses light energy or energy stored in chemical compounds to make energy-rich compounds is known as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- The sun, which provides energy to plants through photosynthesis, is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.
- An organism that cannot make its own food and feeds on other organisms is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ uses sunlight to make food.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ obtains food from photosynthetic organisms.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ eats meat in the form of other animals.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ breaks down and releases nutrients from dead organisms.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is an organism that only eats producers and is a herbivore.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is an animal that obtains its nutrition by eating primary consumers and secondary consumers.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ occupies the third trophic level in a typical food chain, and it feeds on primary consumers for nutrients and energy.
- The energy levels or steps in a food chain or food web are known as \_\_\_\_\_.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Using complete sentences, explain how energy flows through an ecosystem. Be sure to include all abiotic and biotic factors.

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2. What is a food web, and how does it differ from a food chain?

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3. Construct a food chain of the scenario below. Label the energy source, producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, and tertiary consumer.

*An owl eats a snake, the snake eats a squirrel, the squirrel eats a nut, the nut receives energy from the sun.*