

SCIENCE
FOOD CHAINS: VOCABULARY

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Example
sun	source of energy for plants	All food chains start with the sun.
producer	an organism that produces (makes) its own food ex: a plant or algae	Producers get their energy by making their own food.
consumer	an animal that cannot produce its own food and must eat plants or other animals for energy ex: insects, reptiles, mammals,	Consumers get their food by eating other living things. They can be herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores.
decomposer	an organism that feeds on dead plants or animals ex: worms, bacteria, mushrooms	Decomposers return nutrients to the soil from dead plants and animals that they break down.
carnivore	a consumer that eats only meat ex: a lion is a carnivore	Carnivores get their energy from other animals that they eat.
herbivore	a consumer that eats only plants ex: a grasshopper is a herbivore	Herbivores get their energy from the plants that they eat.
omnivore	a consumer that eats both plants and animals. ex: humans,	Omnivores get their energy from both plant and animal sources.
prey	an animal that <u>is hunted</u> by another animal for food	Small fish are prey for larger fish in the ocean.
predator	An animal that <u>hunts</u> another animal for food	When a robin eats a worm, the robin is a predator.
ecosystem	The living and non-living things that interact and share an environment	Sunlight, soil, water, plants, and animals, as well as other non-living things for an ecosystem.

