

Bea's Meadow Food Chain Workshop

Learning objective: To construct and interpret food chains, identifying producers, primary consumers, and predators within a meadow habitat.

Follow the steps below to illustrate a thriving meadow ecosystem. Ensure your arrows point in the direction of energy transfer from one organism to the next.

Draw: Create a detailed, vibrant scene of a British meadow. Start at the bottom with deep-rooted wildflowers and grasses. Position a caterpillar on a leaf, followed by a bird perched on a nearby stem. Use clear, bold arrows to connect the Sun to the flower, the flower to the caterpillar, and the caterpillar to the bird. Use a naturalistic style with attention to the textures of leaves and wings.



Label words: Producer · Primary Consumer · Predator · Energy transfer · Herbivore · Carnivore · Habitat

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a bright sun at the top of your page and a cluster of wildflowers below it. Label the wildflowers as the 'Producer'. Why do plants need the sun to survive?
2. Step 2: Draw a caterpillar (like our friend Pip) eating a leaf. Label this as the 'Primary Consumer'. Is this animal a herbivore or a carnivore? Justify your answer.
3. Step 3: Draw a small bird or a ladybird eating the caterpillar. Label this as the 'Predator'. Explain why the

arrows in a food chain must always point towards the animal doing the eating.

4. Compare and contrast: How would the population of the meadow change if the producer was removed from the food chain?

5. What might happen to the food chain if a new, larger predator was introduced to this meadow habitat?

6. Justify your answer: Is a human more like a primary consumer or a predator in a typical food chain? Explain your reasoning.