

Nova's Guide to Extraordinary Food Chains

Follow the energy from the sun to the top of the food chain!

- A producer is a living thing that makes its own food using sunlight. Plants are the primary producers in almost every ecosystem.
- Primary consumers are animals that eat the producers. These animals are often herbivores, like rabbits or caterpillars.
- Secondary consumers are carnivores or omnivores that eat the primary consumers. They are the next step in the energy transfer.
- An apex predator sits at the very top of the food chain. They have no natural predators in their specific environment.
- Energy is transferred from one organism to another when one is eaten. Only a small amount of energy is passed on at each stage.

Did you know? Did you know? Almost every food chain starts with the Sun! Plants, like grass and trees, act as producers by trapping the Sun's energy through photosynthesis to create their own food. Without these green plants, the rest of the chain would have no energy to survive.

Key vocabulary: Producer · Consumer · Herbivore · Carnivore · Omnivore · Predator · Prey · Energy