

Nova's Guide to Food Chains

Learning objective: To construct and explain a food chain, identifying producers, predators, and prey within a habitat.

Use the writing frame below to describe how energy moves through a habitat. Start by identifying your chosen environment, then follow the links in the food chain from the producer to the top predator.

In the heart of the woodland, a food chain begins with the sun providing energy for the plants.

Word bank: producer · consumer · predator · prey · energy source · habitat · consequently · furthermore · in addition · as a result

1. Introduction: Describe the habitat you have chosen and name the producer at the start of your food chain. Start by saying: 'My chosen habitat is... where the primary producer is... because...' (2 marks)

2. The Primary Consumer: Which animal eats the producer? Start by saying: 'The primary consumer in this chain is the..., which feeds on the... to gain energy...' (2 marks)

3. The Predator: Describe the next step in the chain. Start by saying: 'The predator at this stage is the..., which hunts the... because...' (2 marks)

4. The Top Predator: Who is at the top of your chain? Start by saying: 'Finally, the top predator is the..., which has no natural enemies in this specific chain because...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise what would happen if one part of the chain were removed. Start by saying: 'If the... were to disappear, the rest of the food chain would be affected because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research what happens to a food chain if a new species is introduced to a habitat. Write a short paragraph explaining how this might affect the existing animals.