

Nova's Nature Explorer: Food Chain Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the roles of producers, predators, and prey within a local habitat food chain.

Use this fact-file to map out a food chain you have observed in your local park or garden. Think about what each animal eats and identify its role in the chain. Remember, Nova the owl loves to see how energy moves from the sun to the plants and then to the animals!

Word bank: Producer · Consumer · Predator · Prey · Herbivore · Carnivore · Omnivore · Energy · Habitat

1. The Producer: Name a plant in your chosen habitat and explain how it gets its energy. (2 marks)

2. Primary Consumer: Which creature eats your producer? Is it a herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore? (2 marks)

3. The Predator: Identify an animal that hunts the primary consumer. How is it adapted to be a predator? (3 marks)

4. Energy Flow: Explain why the arrows in a food chain always point towards the animal that is doing the eating. (2 marks)

5. The Impact: What would happen to the rest of the food chain if the producer was removed from the habitat? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a 'food web' instead of a chain. How does your creature survive if one of its food sources disappears? Write a short paragraph explaining why a web is more stable than a single chain.