

Investigating Food Chains with Bea the Bee

Learning objective: To identify and describe the flow of energy through a food chain using scientific vocabulary.

Use this writing frame to describe a food chain you have observed in nature. Follow the headings to explain how energy moves from the sun to the final predator.

A food chain shows how energy is passed from one living thing to another in an ecosystem.

Word bank: producer · consumer · predator · prey · energy · sunlight · firstly · then · following this · finally

1. The Producer: Which plant starts your food chain and why does it need sunlight to grow? Start your sentence with: The producer in my food chain is... (2 marks)

2. The Primary Consumer: Which animal eats the producer? Start your sentence with: The primary consumer is the... which eats the plant to gain energy. (2 marks)

3. The Predator: Which animal is the predator in your chain? Start your sentence with: The predator in this chain is the... because it hunts the... (2 marks)

4. Energy Flow: Explain what would happen to the chain if the producer was removed. Start your sentence with: If the producer disappeared, the food chain would break because... (3 marks)

5. Summary: Summarise your findings. Start your sentence with: In conclusion, all living things in a food chain rely on energy that originally comes from... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research what happens to a food chain if a new predator is introduced to the environment. Write three sentences explaining how this might change the balance of the chain.