

Nova and Bea's Guide to Food Chains

Follow the energy: From the sun to the apex predator!

- A producer is a living thing, usually a plant, that makes its own food using sunlight.
- Primary consumers are animals that eat producers; these are known as herbivores.
- Secondary consumers eat primary consumers and are often carnivores or omnivores.
- The arrows in a food chain represent the direction that energy flows from one organism to another.
- An apex predator sits at the very top of the food chain and has no natural predators of its own.
- If one part of a food chain is removed, it can affect the balance of the entire ecosystem.

Did you know? Did you know? Almost every food chain starts with the sun! Plants act as nature's solar panels, capturing sunlight to create their own energy through photosynthesis. Without these primary producers, the energy wouldn't be available for any other living things in the habitat.

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