

# Food Web

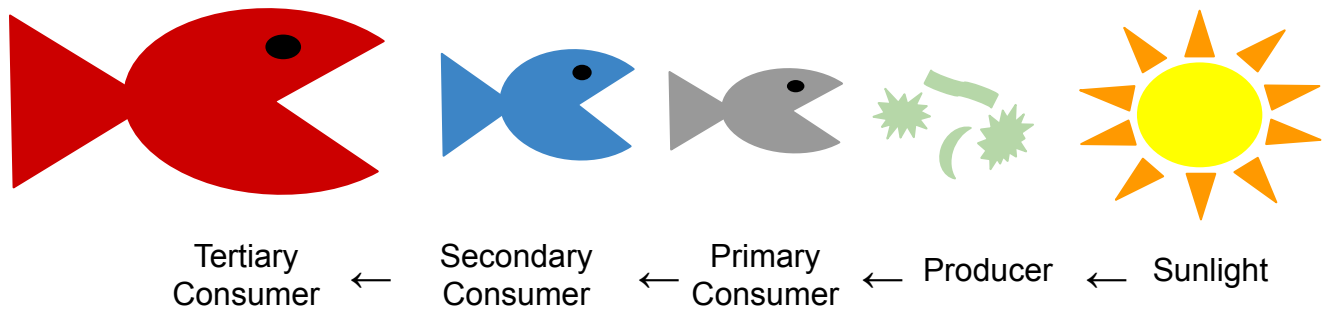


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**What is a food web?** A food chain starts with *producers* (plants and algae that get their energy from the sun). Producers are then eaten by *primary consumers*, or animals that eat plants and algae, which are also sometimes called *herbivores*. Next come *secondary consumers* which eat primary consumers, and *tertiary consumers* which eat secondary consumers. Secondary consumers and tertiary consumers, or animals that eat other animals, are sometimes called *carnivores*. However, most animals don't eat just one type of food, and some don't even stick to just being a carnivore or an herbivore. For example, lobsters eat other animals, as well as algae. Animals that eat both plants and animals are called *omnivores*. Connecting multiple food chains creates a *food web* for a particular *ecosystem*, or area.

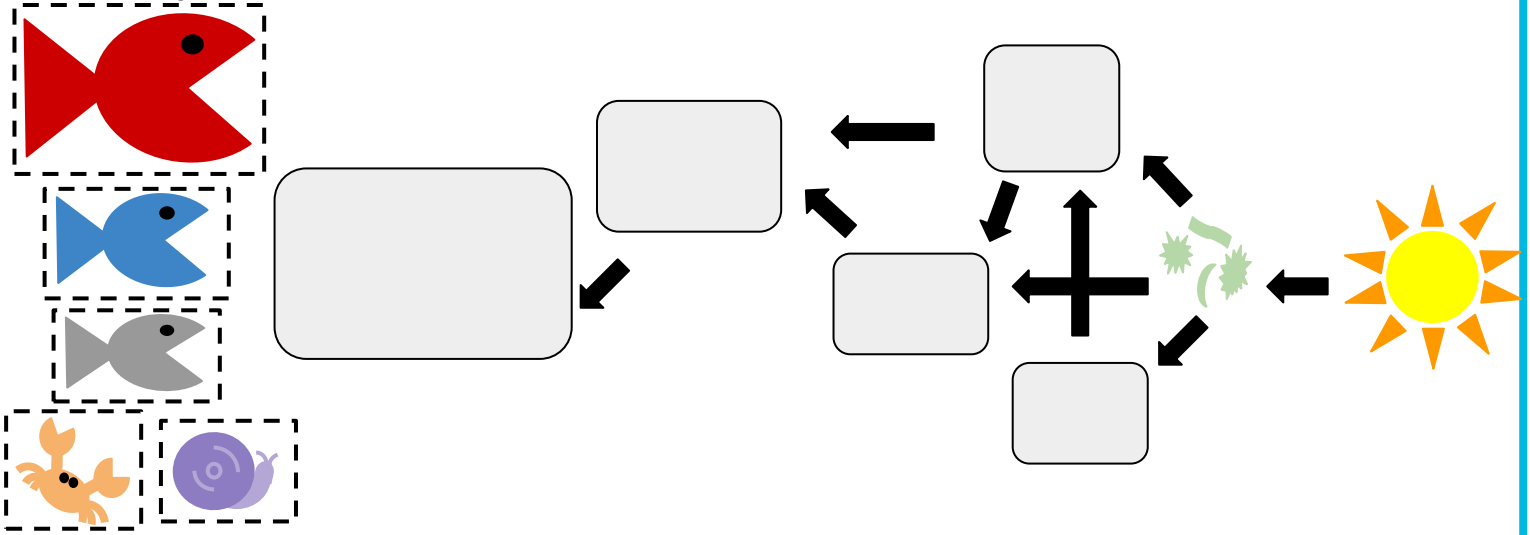
### Food Chain

This is an example of a simple food chain in the ocean:



### Food Web

Now, let's say that our gray fish is an omnivore, and eats crabs and algae. And, our blue fish eats crabs and gray fish. Crabs eat algae and snails, and snails eat only algae. Can you complete the food web now? Cut out the animals along the dotted lines and then paste them into their spots in the food web:



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## Now it's your turn!

Draw your own food web using your favorite plants and animals, or by creating a made-up ecosystem with creatures from your imagination! What are your producers? What are your consumers? Don't forget to connect everything using arrows!

