

The food web shows all of the relationships between all of the plants and animals in a community. It also shows how different food chains interact with one another and overlap.



## Key vocabulary

---

### **carnivores**

An animal that eats meat.

### **consumers**

A plant or animal that gets its energy (food) from other living things.

### **decomposers**

An organism, like bacteria, that breaks down dead plant or animal matter and releases their nutrients back into the soil.

### **food chain**

An ordered arrangement of animals and plants in which each feeds on the one below it in the chain.

### **food web**

The complex network of food chains in an ecosystem.

### **herbivores**

An animal that eats plants rather than other animals.

### **organism**

A living plant or animal.

### **producers**

A plant that gets its food from the sun's energy and that acts as a source of food (energy) for other organisms.

### **omnivore**

An animal that eats both plants and meat.

### **scavenger**

An organism that feeds on dead or decaying plants and animals.

### **detritus**

Material that results from disintegration or wearing away.

## Related articles

---



### Food Chains

How does a snail get its food? How about a tree? Find out all about the food chain, and you will know!



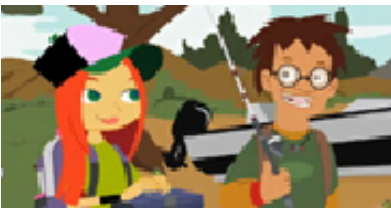
### Aquatic Ecosystems

There is a whole new world in the water, and we are here to learn all about it. Join us for a trip into the aquatic ecosystems!



### Biomes

Ecosystems can get really big, and when they do, they are called biomes. Which biome do you live in?



### Changes in Ecosystems

Even in ecosystems, things change. Over hundreds and thousands of years, those changes can really add up!



### Ecosystems

Look outside your window. Ever wonder how all those things live and grow together in one place? That is an ecosystem, and it is a pretty amazing thing.



### The Kingdoms of Life

Kingdoms are one of the ways scientists keep all the billions of living things in the world straight. Do you know all the kingdoms?