



SECTION 13.4 | FOOD CHAINS AND FOOD WEBS
Study Guide

KEY CONCEPT

Food chains and food webs model the flow of energy in an ecosystem.

VOCABULARY

food chain	decomposer
herbivore	specialist
carnivore	generalist
omnivore	trophic level
detritivore	food web

MAIN IDEA: A food chain is a model that shows a sequence of feeding relationships.

Complete the following sentence with the correct terms.

1. A food chain follows the connection between one _____ and a single chain of _____ within an _____.

Choose the correct term from the box below to fit each description.

carnivore	herbivore	secondary consumer
decomposer	omnivore	tertiary consumer
detritivore	primary consumer	trophic levels

2. I eat only plants. I am a(n) _____.
3. I eat only other animals. I am a(n) _____.
4. I eat both plants and animals. I am a(n) _____.
5. I eat dead organic matter. I am a(n) _____.
6. I break down organic matter into simpler compounds. I am a(n) _____.
7. I am the first consumer above the producer level. I am a(n) _____.
8. I am a carnivore that eats herbivores. I am a(n) _____.
9. I am a carnivore that eats other carnivores. I am a(n) _____.
10. The levels of nourishment in a food chain are called _____.

Section 13.4 STUDY GUIDE CONTINUED

MAIN IDEA: A food web shows a complex network of feeding relationships.

11. How is a food web different from a food chain?

12. What happens to energy at each link in a food web?

13. What type of organism provides the base of a food web?

Vocabulary Check

14. Use your knowledge of the words *special* and *general* to explain the diets of a specialist and a generalist.

15.

Word Part	Meaning
herba	vegetation
carnus	flesh
omnis	all

Use the word origins to explain the diets of each of the following consumers: herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.
