



# Food Chain And Its Components

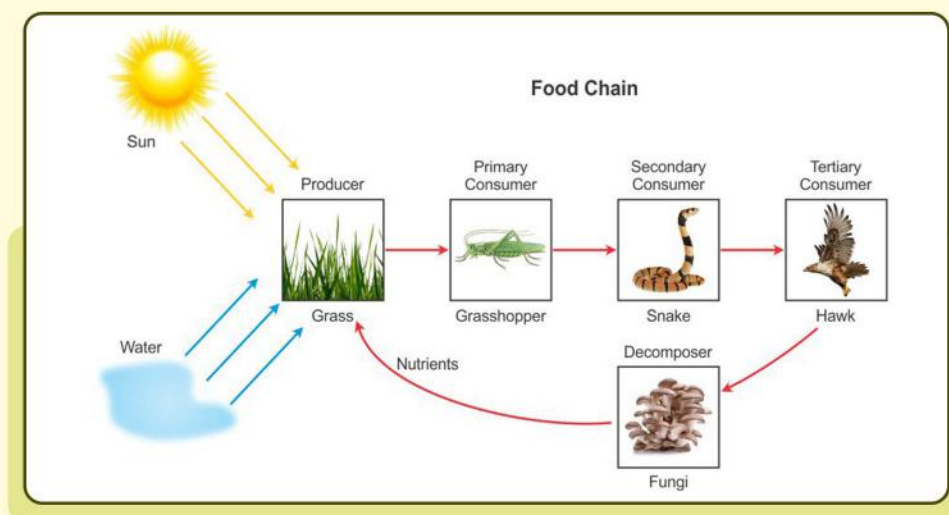
A food chain refers to the dependence of an organism on another for its food in a given environment.

**The different components/organisms that make up a food chain include:**

**PRODUCERS:** Producers are organisms that prepare their own food. **In a food chain, Plants represent the producers** as they prepare their food by a process referred to as **Photosynthesis**.

**CONSUMERS:** Consumers are organisms that depend or derive their food from others. Based on food habits, Consumers in a food chain are of three types

- **HERBIVORES (Primary Consumer):** Herbivores are organisms that feed on only plants and their products, such as leaves, roots, shoots, branches, and stem. **Examples:** *Rabbit, Deer, Zebra*
- **CARNIVORES (Secondary Consumer):** Carnivores are organisms that feed on other animals for their survival. **Examples:** *Wolves, Snake, Cat*
- **OMNIVORES (Tertiary Consumer):** Omnivores are organisms that feed on animals as well as plants and plant products. **Examples:** *Human beings, Hedgehogs, Hawk*
- **DECOMPOSERS:** Decomposers are organisms (mostly microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi) that degrade/decompose the dead remains of producers and consumers (herbivores, carnivores, omnivores) in a food chain. By doing so, decomposers help in releasing carbon dioxide and nutrients back into the soil.



## Answer the following image-based questions?



1. Identify the producer in the image?

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2. Define a food chain in your own words?

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3. Name the process by which producers/plants prepare their food?

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4. Mention the important requirements for the plants to synthesize/produce their food?

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5. A primary consumer is also known as?

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6. Which type of consumer does a grasshopper represent?

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7. Define a secondary consumer with an example?

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8. What does a tertiary consumer feed on?

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9. Which type of consumer is a hawk?

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10. What is the function of fungi?

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