



Dinner in a woodland

Background knowledge

A *woodland* is a forest habitat containing trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses. A *food chain* shows a particular feeding relationship in a particular habitat. Animals that eat other animals are called *predators*. In a woodland habitat, the owl is a predator. It eats mice. The mice are the owl's *prey*. The prey becomes the food for the predator. The feeding relationships are usually more complex since most animals feed on more than one type of living thing. This type of relationship is called a *food web*.

Science activity

Many food chains exist in a woodland.



1 Look at the two woodland food chains below. Identify the producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, and third order consumers. Label each organism by placing a **P**, **PC**, **SC**, or **TOC** in each square.

Plant → Woodmouse → Hawk

Plant → Insect → Shrew → Owl

2 Name the hawk's prey and the shrew's predator in these food chains.

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Science investigation

Do one of the following: make a food chain or web on a poster or a mobile; write a song or poem about a woodland food chain; or design and build a woodland food chain game and play it with your family and friends.



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2 Name the hawk's prey and the shrew's predator in these food chains.

The hawk's prey is the woodmouse. The shrew's predator is the owl.

Science investigation

There are many possible relationships to show in a woodland food chain. Encourage the young investigator to choose the activity at which he or she feels most competent. This is an opportunity to use one of the child's "multiple intelligences."