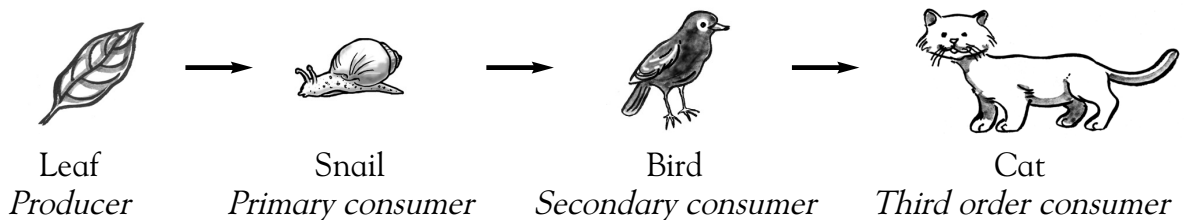


What's for dinner?



Background knowledge

A *food chain* shows the feeding relationship between different living things in a particular environment or *habitat*. Often, a plant will begin a food chain because it can make its own food. Organisms that can make their own food are called *producers*. Consumers are animals that eat producers or other animals. The animal that eats the producer is called the *primary consumer*. The animal that eats the primary consumer is called a *secondary consumer*. The animal that eats the secondary consumer is called a *third order consumer* and so on to fourth, fifth, etc. The direction of arrows between the organisms shows who eats what.



Science activity

Look at the two food chains below. Identify the producer, primary consumer, and secondary consumer in each food chain. Write your answer in the table.

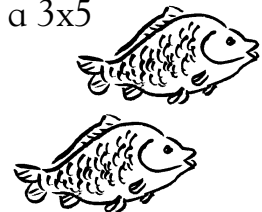
A Plant plankton → Water flea → Dragonfly larva → Minnow → Pike

B Water plant → Water snail → Water-beetle larva → Frog → Heron

| Food chain | Producer | Primary consumer | Secondary consumer |
|------------|----------|------------------|--------------------|
| A | | | |
| B | | | |

Science investigation

Cut out pictures of plants and animals. Glue each picture to a 3x5 card. Use a hole-punch to make a hole on each side of the card. Use string to tie the cards together to make one or more food chains. Share your food chains with your family and friends and explain how they work.

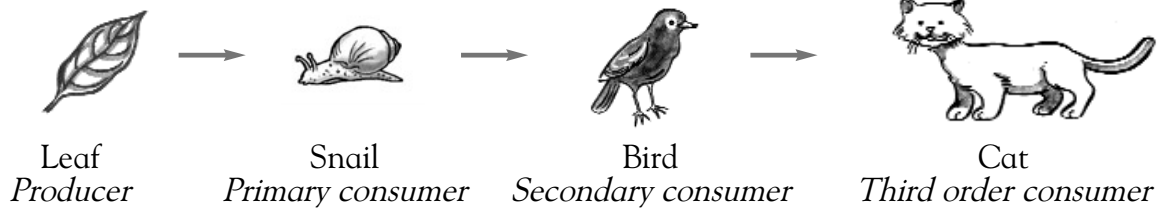


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| Food chain | Producer | Primary consumer | Secondary consumer |
|------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| A | Plant plankton | Water flea | Dragonfly larva |
| B | Water plant | Water snail | Water-beetle larva |

Science investigation

To make the food chain, use a piece of string 10–15 cm long. Ask the young investigator to explain the food chain. Care should be taken so that the strings do not get tangled, especially when food chains are connected to make food webs.

