

# 4 What are food chains?

- Animals eat plants or other animals, but green plants can make their own food.
- You can show what animals eat by making a food chain.

Have you ever wondered where all the food in the world comes from? You might have chicken for dinner. What did the chicken eat? The farmer fed the chicken with grain such as corn. Where did the corn come from? That grew in a field. You can always track everything you eat back to a green plant growing in the first place.

## What are predators, prey and producers?



The fox is a **predator**. That means he is a hunter. He eats rabbits.



The fox eats rabbits, so rabbits are the fox's **prey**. Rabbits eat green plants.



The green plants make the food to start with, so they are called the **producers**.

## What is a food chain?

You can show your knowledge about what animals eat in a **food chain**.



The grass makes the food in the first place. Then the zebra eats the grass, and finally the lion eats the zebra. The food is being passed along the chain.

### Producer

"Produce" means "make". Green plants produce the food that starts every food chain.

### Consumer

"Consume" means "eat". Zebras and lions are both consumers.



## On track

1 These animals like to eat different things.



cat



wheat



wolf



mouse



sheep



grass

Copy this table and put the names of the animals and plants into the correct columns, to show whether they are predator, prey or producers.

Predator	Prey	Producer
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## Aiming higher

2 Here are a few facts about some animals and what they eat.



Owls eat smaller birds



A caterpillar eats lettuce leaves



A thrush eats caterpillars

(a) Copy this table and show the information as a food chain.



(b) Look at the food chain you have made and name the following things:

- The producer
- Two predators
- Two prey animals

(c) Look again at question 1. Make two food chains using those animals and plants.



## How well am I doing?

### On track

I can say that predators eat other animals, which are called their prey.

### Aiming higher

I can show what animals eat by making a food chain.