

ENERGY FROM THE SUN

A **source of energy** is something that we get energy from.

Food is a **source of energy** for your body. When you run, your muscles use energy. The energy for your muscles comes from the food you eat.

The sun gives energy to plants and plants change this energy into food energy. This energy made by plants is eaten by animals.

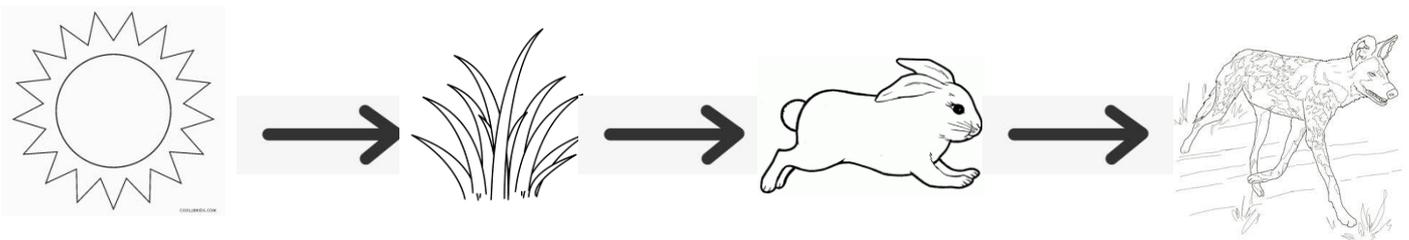
Energy is stored in food. Inside our bodies the food is broken down so the energy can be used in our muscles and for us to live and grow.

FOOD CHAINS

Food chains are how energy moves through all habitats and ecosystems. They show how living plants and animals depend on each other for food. All plants and animals play an important role in a food chain. If any plants or animals are missing the food chain will not be balanced. If the food chain is not balanced some things could die because they will not get the energy they need to survive.

A **food chain or energy chain** shows how living things eat and how nutrients and energy are passed from organism to organism.

The food chain below is a simple one that starts with grass that is eaten by rabbits. The rabbits are then eaten by wild dogs.

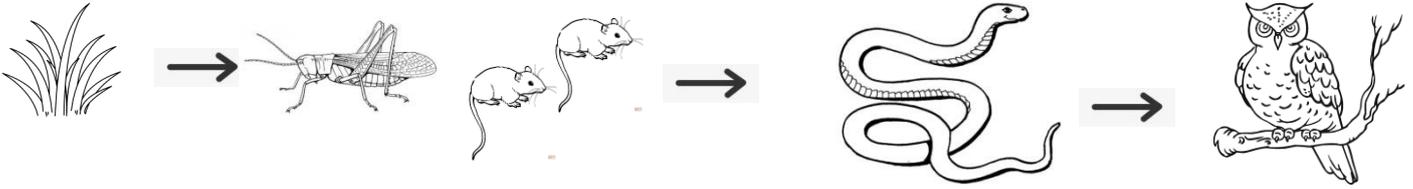


Food chains can have lots more animals in them.



The above food chain starts with acorns which are eaten by mice. The mice are eaten by snakes and then finally snakes are eaten by owls. At each link in the chain energy is being transferred from one animal to another.

There can even be more links to a food chain. In the food chain below, another animal has been added. It starts with grass, which is eaten by grasshoppers which are eaten by mice. The mice are then eaten by snakes which are eaten by owls.



There is actually even more to this chain. After the owl dies fungi like mushrooms and other decomposers break down the dead owl and turn the remainder of the owl into nutrients which are released from the soil. The nutrients together with sun and water then help the grass to grow.

ACTIVITY TWO: (Energy from the Sun)

1. Explain what a food or energy chain is.
2. Study the pictures below. In which order would they need to be in to show an energy chain?



3. The paragraph below describes the energy/food chain for the pictures above. Use the words in the word box to fill in the missing words.

Light energy from the _____ is used by the apple _____ to make its own _____. A child _____ the apple. Energy in the _____ goes to the child's body.

sun food apple eats tree

4. Complete the following.

a) Something that we get energy from.

b) Substances in food that living things need to live, grow and stay healthy.

c) Energy _____ is the process by which energy goes from one part of an energy chain to another.

d) _____ makes things happen, move or change.

5. Use the following pictures (sun, plant, insect, fish, person) to create your own food chain. Write a short paragraph explaining the flow of energy in this food chain.

