

Young Scientists Study Food Webs in Nature

Grade 5

Science

Nonfiction

Young scientists Theme

~140 words

NGSS.5-LS2-1

Name: _____ Date: _____

READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.

Scientists who study nature discover that all living things depend on each other for survival. A food web shows how energy moves through an ecosystem from plants to animals. Young scientists observe that plants are producers because they make their own food using sunlight. Herbivores are consumers that eat plants for energy. Carnivores hunt other animals to survive. When an animal dies, decomposers break down the remains and return nutrients to soil. This cycle continues endlessly. Young researchers investigate food webs by observing animals in forests, ponds, and gardens. They draw diagrams connecting different organisms with arrows showing energy flow. By studying food webs, young scientists learn that removing one organism affects many others. For example, if bees disappear, plants cannot reproduce, and herbivores lose their food source. Understanding these connections helps future scientists protect ecosystems and solve environmental problems.

Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.

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Questions

→ **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what role do plants play in a food web?

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'decomposers' mean in the passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why is it important for young scientists to study food webs?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens to herbivores if bees disappear from an ecosystem?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. Name two places where young scientists observe and investigate food webs.

✓ ANSWER KEY — Young Scientists Study Food Webs in Nature

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Scientists who study nature discover that all living things depend on each other for survival. A food web shows how energy moves through an ecosystem from plants to animals. Young scientists observe that plants are producers because they make their own food using sunlight. Herbivores are consumers that eat plants for energy. Carnivores hunt other animals to survive. When an animal dies, decomposers break down the remains and return nutrients to soil. This cycle continues endlessly. Young researchers investigate food webs by observing animals in forests, ponds, and gardens. They draw diagrams connecting different organisms with arrows showing energy flow. By studying food webs, young scientists learn that removing one organism affects many others. For example, if bees disappear, plants cannot reproduce, and herbivores lose their food source. Understanding these connections helps future scientists protect ecosystems and solve environmental problems.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

The passage is mostly about how food webs show the connections between living things in nature and how young scientists study these important relationships.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what role do plants play in a food web?

Plants are producers because they make their own food using sunlight, as stated in the passage.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word 'decomposers' mean in the passage?

Decomposers are organisms that break down dead animal remains and return nutrients to the soil.

INFERENCE

4. Why is it important for young scientists to study food webs?

Young scientists study food webs to understand how ecosystems work and to learn how to protect the environment from damage.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. What happens to herbivores if bees disappear from an ecosystem?

If bees disappear, plants cannot reproduce, so herbivores lose their food source and cannot survive.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. Name two places where young scientists observe and investigate food webs.

Young scientists investigate food webs in forests, ponds, and gardens by observing animals and drawing diagrams.