Food Chains & The Energy Pyramid Guided Notes Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Producers:**

* Plants are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is because they produce (make) their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! They do this by using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Sun, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the air, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the soil to produce food in the form of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This process is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Consumers:**

* Animals are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is because they cannot make their own food, so they have to consume (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) plants and/or other animals.
* There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ groups of consumers.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Animals that eat only plants. Three examples of things they might eat include: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A few examples of herbivores are: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Animals that eat only animals. This includes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Some examples of carnivores are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Animals that eat both plants AND animals. Some examples of omnivores are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Decomposers:**

* + Bacteria and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are decomposers. They eat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- dead plants and animals- and in the process they break them down and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them. When that happens, they release \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ back into the soil- which is then used by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

**Food Chains:**

* Every living thing needs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in order to live. Every time animals do something (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, jump) they use energy to do so. Animals get energy from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they eat, and all living things get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from food. Plants use sunlight, water and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to get energy (in a process called [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/foodchain/photosynthesis.htm)). Energy is necessary for living beings to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shows how each living thing gets \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are passed from creature to creature. Food chains begin with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and end with animal-life. Some animals eat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, some animals eat other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In the boxes below, draw a simple food chain!

**Food Webs:** *Draw the food chains below!*

**Here's another food chain, with a few more animals. It starts with acorns, which are eaten by mice. The mice are eaten by snakes, and then finally the snakes are eaten by hawks. At each link in the chain, energy is being transferred from one animal to another.**

 **There can be even more links to any food chain. Here another animal is added. It goes Grass to grasshopper to mouse to snake to hawk.**

 **There is actually even more to this chain. After a hawk dies, fungi (like mushrooms) and other**[**decomposers**](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/foodchain/decomposers.htm)**break down the dead hawk, and turn the remains of the hawk into nutrients, which are released into the soil. The nutrients (plus sun and water) then cause the grass to grow.
It's a full circle of life and energy!!**

**So food chains make a full circle, and energy is passed from plant to animal to animal to decomposer and back to plant! There can be many links in food chains but not TOO many. If there are too many links, then the animal at the end would not get enough energy.**