



# What is a food chain?



## Learning Intention

- Understand that plants and animals in a habitat are dependent on each other.

## National Curriculum Skills

**Science** Interdependence of living organisms in those 2 environments and their representation in food chains.

## Activity Outline

- \* Create a food chain.
- \* Play a food chain game.
- \* Write and draw to record a food chain.

## Resources

Post-its

1 labelled *sun*

10 Labelled *plant* (include berries and nuts etc.)

8 labelled *insect/caterpillar*

2 labelled *Blue Tit* (eats insects, caterpillars and seeds)

2 labelled *Robin* (eats insects and seeds)

2 labelled *mouse* (eats plants)

1 labelled *Fox* (eats mice)

1 labelled *Sparrowhawk* (eats mice and small birds)

(Add a few more if you need to - more at the bottom end of the food chain- plants and insects)

Key Question sheet

Blank activity food chain sheet

“Is eaten by” arrow cards

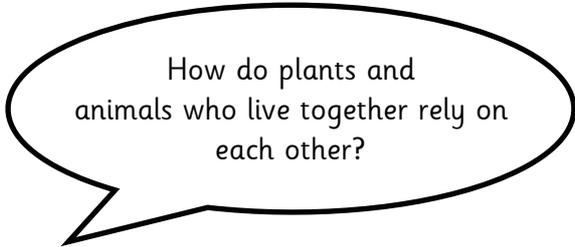


# What is a food chain?

## Lesson Outline

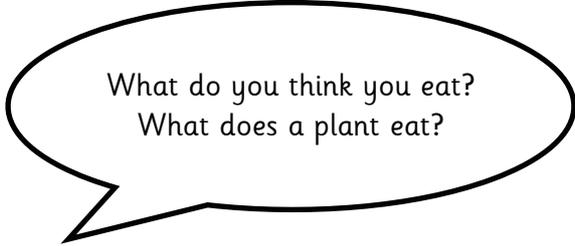
- Introduce the concept of food chains, i.e.
  - a plant makes its own food from sunlight
  - energy is passed along a chain from the sun through plants, through insects and small animals, through to larger predators (including us!)
  - arrows follow the direction of energy flow from prey to predator

- Use the Key questions prompt sheet to open discussion.



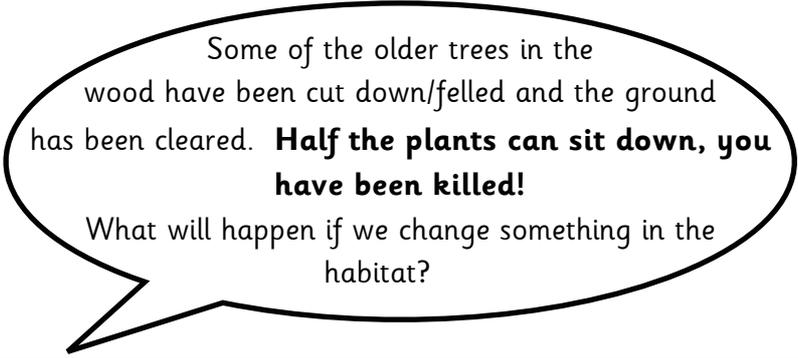
How do plants and animals who live together rely on each other?

- “What do we know about food chains?”
- Hand out the Post-it notes at random to pupils who can stick them to themselves!



What do you think you eat?  
What does a plant eat?

- Encourage the pupils to find a food chain - find other pupils and join hands.
- *or* choose one of the pupils to come out and choose something they eat or that eats them
- Create a ‘living’ food chain - hand out the **IS EATEN BY** arrows and ask the pupils to make their food chain.
- Record some of the food chains on the board.
- Introduce a scenario, such as:



Some of the older trees in the wood have been cut down/felled and the ground has been cleared. **Half the plants can sit down, you have been killed!**  
What will happen if we change something in the habitat?

Insects, will this affect you?  
Why?

- Ask more of the insects to sit down to show they have died.

Blue Tit, will this affect you?  
Why?

- The blue tit can now sit down! The same will happen to the Robins.

What will happen to the  
Sparrowhawk?

What do we know about food  
chains?

- Can the children create their own scenarios?
- Hand out the food chain cards and in small groups, ask the children to create as many food chains as they can, using the “**is eaten by**” arrows.

Which animals live around our  
school? Are there any food chains you  
can draw or talk about?

How can we encourage  
more insects to come to our school  
grounds?

What would happen if more  
insects came to our school?

# Key Questions

What is a food chain?

Which plants/  
animals do we eat?

Which animals are  
at the top/bottom of the  
food chain? Why?

What would  
happen if our food chain  
was damaged?

Are all animals in  
the food chain?

What does a  
consumer do?

What would  
happen if there were  
more animals at the  
top?

What does a  
producer do?

What would  
happen if predators  
died out?

Which part of the  
food chain is the most  
important?

Which part of the  
food chain would you like  
to be in? Why?

Grass

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Berries

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Seeds

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Leaf

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Flower

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Caterpillar

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Slug

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Ladybird

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Fly

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Bee

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Spider

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Aphid

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Mouse

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Hedgehog

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Rabbit

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Shrew

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Frog

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Blue tit

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Sparrow

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Blackbird

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Worm

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Beetle

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Grasshopper

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Millipede

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Woodlouse

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Barn Owl

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Fox

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Sparrowhawk

I eat:

I get eaten by:

Kestrel

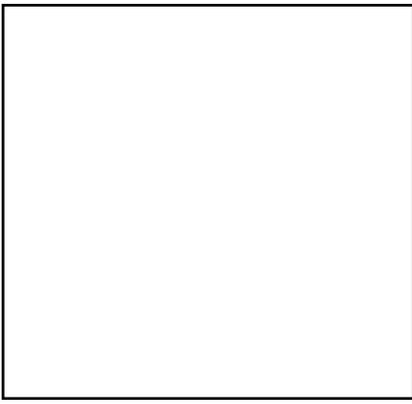
I eat:

I get eaten by:

Weasel

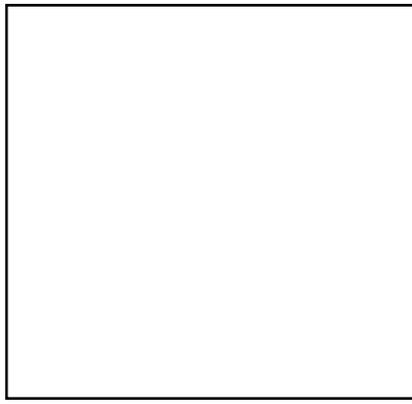
I eat:

I get eaten by:



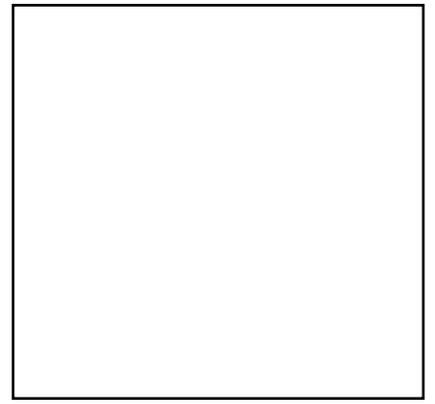
I eat:

I get eaten by:



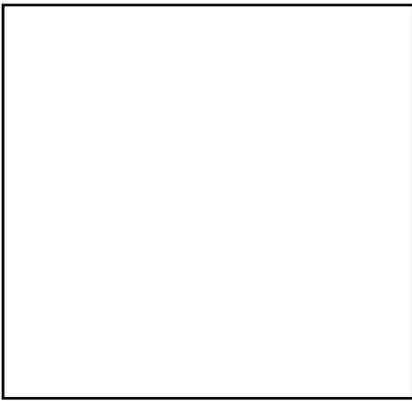
I eat:

I get eaten by:



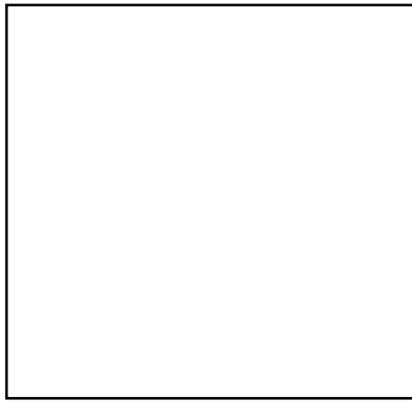
I eat:

I get eaten by:



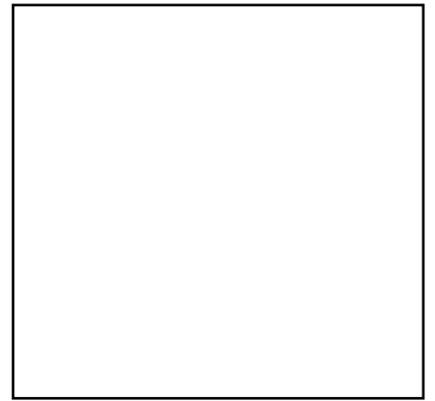
I eat:

I get eaten by:



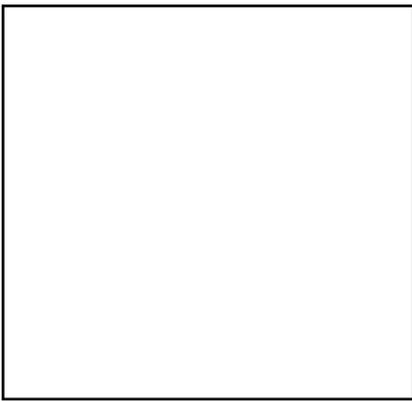
I eat:

I get eaten by:



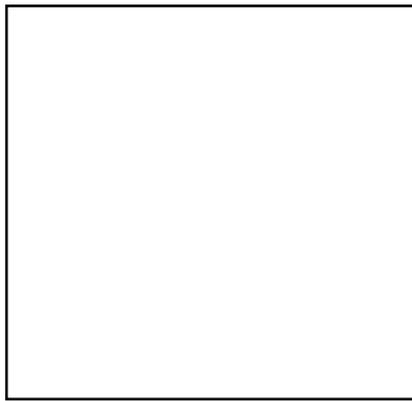
I eat:

I get eaten by:



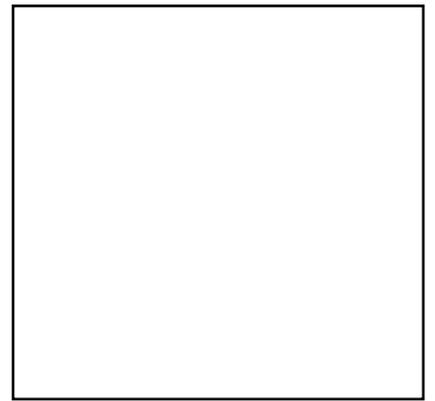
I eat:

I get eaten by:



I eat:

I get eaten by:



I eat:

I get eaten by:

Stick us onto Lolly sticks!

**Is eaten by**

**Is eaten by**

**Is eaten by**