food Chains Study Guide

Test Date: _____

Vocabulary	
Producer	A living thing that makes its own food
Consumer	A living thing that can not make its own food
Ecosystem	A carefully balanced system where plants and animals live and work together; this is also known as a community
Herbivore	An animal that only eats plants
Carnivore	An animal that only eats meat
Omnivore	An animal that eats plant AND meat
Food Chain	a group of living things in which the first is eaten by the second, the second is eaten by the third and so on
Food Web	Several food chains together
Predator	an animal that hunts and eats other animals
Prey	An animal that is hunted and eaten by predators
Scavenger	An animal that feeds on dead plants and animals
Decomposer	a living thing that breaks down dead plants and animals into simpler matter

Important Information

1). The source of all energy on Earth comes from the Sun. Plants make their own food and store any extra energy in their roots, stems, leaves, and flowers (seeds.) Animals cannot make their own food and depend on the plant world to do this for them. This relationship is called an **ecosystem**. There are many ecosystems on the earth and many habitats in each ecosystem. Each ecosystem has many plants and animals living there. Another word for an ecosystem is a **community**.

2). Usually, plants are called **producers** and animals are **consumers**.

3). There are five kinds of Consumers

- Herbivores
- Carnivores
- Omnivores
- Scavengers
- Decomposers

4). **Herbivores** have flat teeth for chewing plants; **carnivores** have sharp teeth for tearing meat; **omnivores** have both types of teeth.

5). Food chains always begin with the source of energy - the Sun; the next link is always a producer (which is usually a plant); the next link will be a consumer, which is usually an animal.

6). Energy is passed through a food chain in the form of food from one link to the next. Remember this energy is from the Sun.

7). Food chains intermingle and blend together. When this happens, it is called a food web. Ecosystems (communities) have many food webs within them.

8). If one link in a food chain is destroyed (dies), the entire chain is threatened. Each link works together to keep the ecosystem in balance.

9). There are many types of ecosystems/communities. Some are:

Ponds
Forests
Lakes
Swamps
Rivers
Grasslands
Deserts
Oceans
Rainforest