

Badger chains and webs



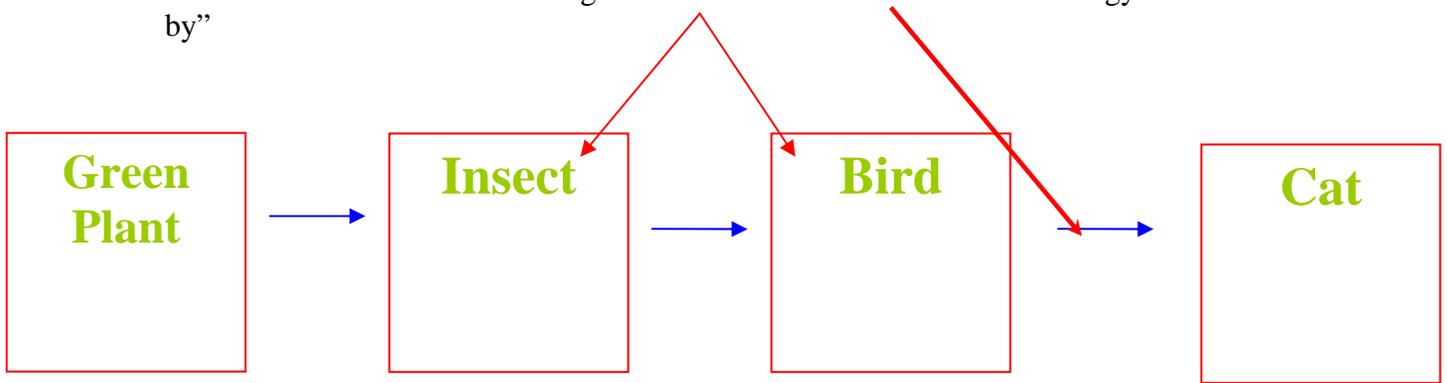
We all need food which provides us with the energy to live.

Green plants make their own food through a process known as photosynthesis. They use energy from the sun to make their food.

Plants are known as **PRODUCERS**, they make/produce their own food.

Animals cannot make their own food. They get their energy by eating other organisms and are known as **CONSUMERS**.

A food chain shows who is eating who. The arrow shows the flow of energy - "is eaten by"



Food chains **MUST** always **START** with a **GREEN PLANT**, which is eaten by a **CONSUMER** and ends with a **PREDATOR**.

Now try and create your own food chain using the names below
Don't forget your arrows.

Oak Tree, Ladybird, Robin, Badger, Fox, The Sun

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Food webs

If a badger eats an earthworm, we can say that it is a part of a food chain. A food chain is all of the steps along the way that provide food for an animal.

Sun → Green Plant → worm → badger

The original energy came from the Sun. It was used by the plant to grow a leaf. The leaf died and fell from the tree. The earthworm dragged the leaf into its underground tunnel and ate it. The badger came along and ate the worm.

But badgers don't just eat worms. They have a very varied diet. So we say that a badger is part of a food web. A food web is just lots of chains jumbled up together.

A food chain only follows just one path as we have seen above.

**A food web shows the many different paths plants and animals are connected.
A food web is several food chains connected together.**

**Can you draw arrows to link up all the chains into a web?
Remember to put your arrow in the correct direction.**

