

Food Chains

Summary

All living things need food. Plants make their own food. The leaves in plants use three things to make food—light from the Sun, air, and water. When a plant makes food, the leaves give off a gas called oxygen. Plants and animals need oxygen to live. A food chain tells how the plants and animals in a habitat get food. A plant makes its own food. An animal eats the plant. Another animal eats the plant eater, and so on. All living things are linked in food chains.

Before Reading

Take a Picture Walk

Build background for the book by taking a picture walk with children. Discuss the pictures and preview the key vocabulary and concepts. Invite children to share what they know about the kinds of foods different animals eat.

Vocabulary

food chain, marsh, oxygen, rain forest

Comprehension Skill: Draw Conclusions

Say: You can use what you know to draw a conclusion or make a decision about something. As you read about food chains, see what conclusions you can make about the kinds of things that people eat.

During Reading

Think Critically

Have children answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

- 1. What do animals eat?** Animals can eat plants, other animals, or plants and animals.

- 2. How does water move in a plant?**

The roots take in water from the soil.
The water travels through the stem to the leaves.

After Reading

Writing in Science

Plants and animals are linked in food chains. Write to explain how a food chain works. Use words from the book as you write.

Organize Information

Graphic Organizer: Draw Conclusions

Have children complete the Draw Conclusions chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to use what they know to draw a conclusion about what might happen to a plant if it lost all its leaves.

Related Resources

Vocabulary Cards	Equipment Kit
Every Student Learns	Activity Flipchart
Quick Study	LabZone
Big Book of Science Songs and CD	
Graphic Organizer Transparencies	
Quick Activity Transparency	
www.pearsonsuccessnet.com	

Write your answers.

1. What do plants use to make their own food?
Plants use light from the Sun, air, and water to make food.
2. What comes out of leaves when leaves make food?
Oxygen comes out of leaves when leaves make food.
3. What is a food chain?
A food chain is the way living things use other living things for food.
4. What might happen to a plant if it loses all its leaves?
Use the graphic organizer to help you.

Possible answer:

Draw Conclusions

I know

Leaves make food for a plant.



My conclusion

A plant without leaves cannot make food and will die.