

Living things need food to give them energy. A food chain is the path by which energy passes from one living thing to another. Green, plants use energy from the sun to make food. Green Green plants are called producers because they are responsible for making the food that the higher level animals

(consumers) eat.

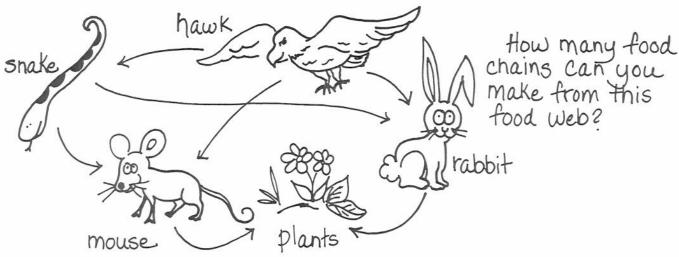
Consumers that only eat plants are called nerbivores. (grasshopper) Those that eat

only meat are called carnivores, (bear) and those that eat plants or meat are called omnivores.

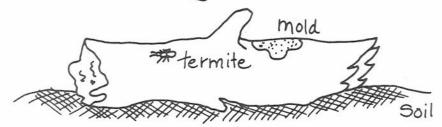
A food chain is a simplified way to look at the energy that passes from producers to consumers. A food web is a more realistic way of looking at the relationships of plants and animals in an environment. A food web is created when several food chains are linked together. Predators eat a variety of prey. It is likely that a predator from one food chain would be linked to the prey of a different chain. Thank) (mouse) (mouse)

(small bird)



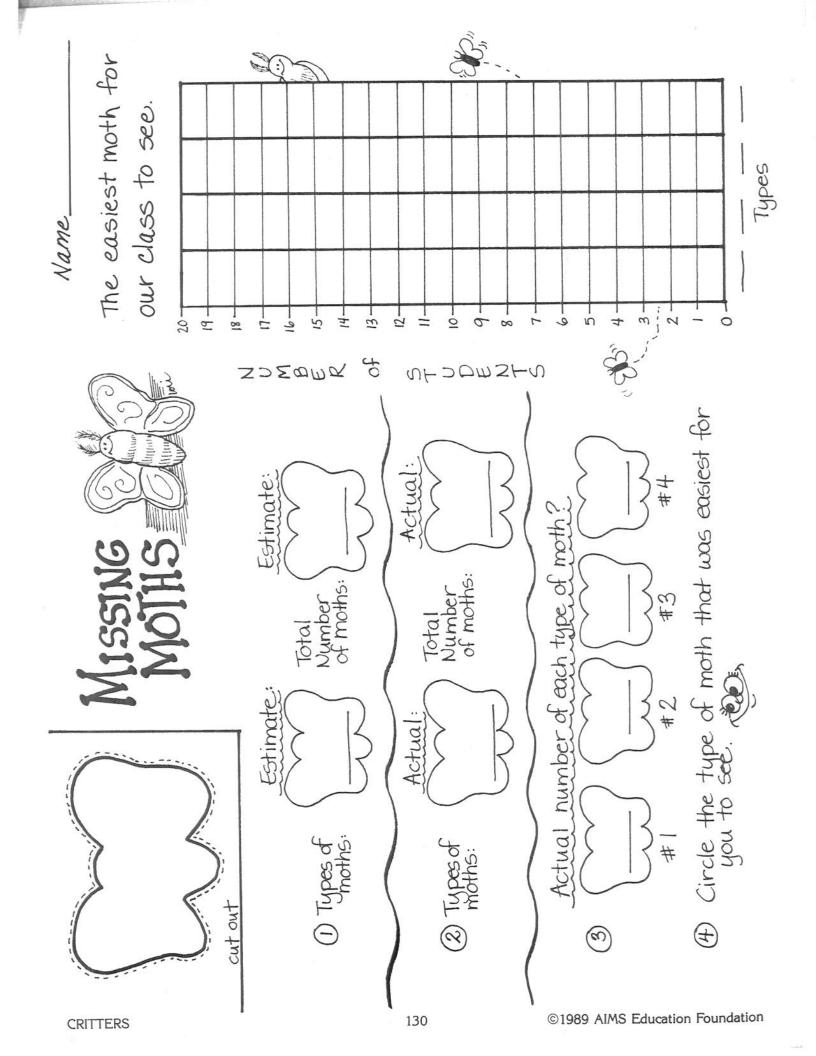


Decomposers are an important link in a food chain or web. They are microorganisms that are able to break down large molecules into smaller parts.



Decomposers can be found at any link of a food chain. They return the nutrients that are in a living thing to the soil. Without decomposers, future generations of plants would not have the nutrients they need to grow.





## ANIMAL KINGDOM

Animals can be classified into 2 groups. The Vertebrates are animals with a backbone. The Invertebrates are animals without a backbone. Run your hand down your back. Do you feel the bumpy bones? That is your backbone. You are a vertebrate.

There are 5 groups of Vertebrates:

·mammals - warm blooded animals that have hair or fur and are born alive.

· birds - warm blooded animals that have feathers and lay eggs.

·fish - cold blooded animals that have scales, gills, and fins and lay eggs.

· reptiles - cold blooded animals that have scales, and lungs and lay eggs.

· amphibians - cold blooded animals that have a smooth skin and can live on land or in water.

Warm blooded animals have a constant body temperature. Cold blooded animals have a body temperature that adjusts to the temperature of their environment.

## ANIMAL KINGDOM

There are many groups of Invertebrates. Here are four of the main ones.

- . annelids cold blooded animals that have a soft body with sections.
- · echinoderms cold blooded animals that have bodies with rough skin and sharp spines.
- · mollusks cold blooded animals with a soft body and sometimes a hard shell.
- · arthropods cold blooded animals with jointed legs.

