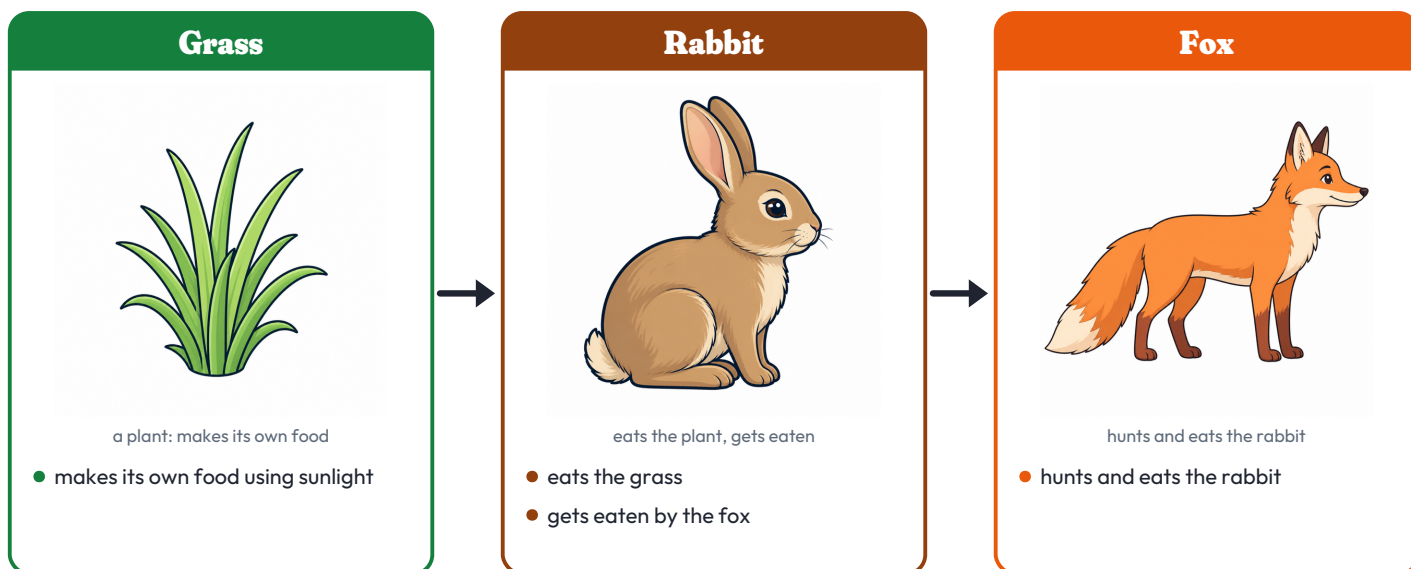




Food chains

A food chain shows who eats what. A simple food chain usually begins with a green plant, which makes its own food, and each arrow means "is eaten by" or "is food for". Follow the arrows and you follow the food.

A food chain: the arrow means "is eaten by"



Worked example

Put these in a food chain: blackbird, cabbage plant, caterpillar.

Start with the plant, which makes its own food. The caterpillar eats the cabbage plant, and the blackbird eats the caterpillar: cabbage plant → caterpillar → blackbird.

Read each arrow as "is food for": the cabbage plant is food for the caterpillar, and the caterpillar is food for the blackbird.

The common mistake

Drawing the arrow from the fox to the rabbit, "because the fox eats the rabbit".

The arrow shows which way the food goes, so it points from the thing being eaten to the thing eating it: rabbit → fox. Read every arrow as "is eaten by" and it will always point the right way.

Test yourself

- ☐ 1 What does a food chain nearly always start with?
- ☐ 2 What does the arrow in a food chain mean?
- ☐ 3 In grass → caterpillar → blackbird, which animal hunts and eats another animal?

Year 4 words (for later)

producer: a plant, which makes its own food
 consumer: an animal that eats plants or animals
 predator: hunts other animals · prey: gets eaten

Next topic

What animals need from their habitat

thelearnden.com/year-2/science/habitat-needs/

Answers: 1. A green plant, which makes its own food. 2. "is eaten by". 3. The blackbird.