

Food Webs

Remember, all the things within a habitat are linked through their food chains. Food chains are a simple way to describe a feeding relationship within a habitat.

In reality it is a bit more of a tangle than a simple food chain, as many animals have more than one prey and may have several predators.

Activity:

Have a go at using the photos from the photo pack to create a tangled food web.

Start with the Sun and draw arrows to all the plants that use the sun to produce their energy, then draw the arrows between the plants and the animals that eat them.

Remember, the arrows show the flow of energy through the food web.

These arrows will cross over and go to several consumers. You'll end up with quite a tangled web of feeding relationships.

If we removed a plant or animal linked in a food chain then everything in the food chain will be affected.

- What do you think would happen if a new disease killed off all the earthworms?
- What about if poachers poisoned all the birds of prey (buzzards and owls etc)?

When plants and animals within a habitat are linked together we say they are interdependent. When one of them is removed then the whole chain suffers.