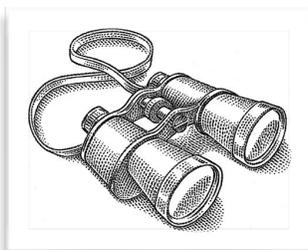


Your Back Yard Food Chain

Today we are looking at CONSUMERS. Another word for a CONSUMER is "HETEROTROPH", which stands for "OTHER FEEDER". Consumers need to eat and can't produce their own food, unlike plants.

CONSUMERS come in 3 different categories:

- HERBIVORES: eat only plants and are CONSUMERS on the first feeding level. Examples are grasshoppers, rabbits and deer.
- OMNIVORES: eat plants and other animals and can be on the first or second feeding level. Examples are squirrels, birds and coyotes.
- CARNIVORES: eat only meat and are on the second feeding level or above. Examples are Praying Mantis, snakes, and Bobcats.



Looking for animals in your yard can be a challenge, since most of them are probably hiding from the heat.

• Your best chance for some good bird sightings are early in the morning. It is helpful to have binoculars when trying to find birds.



• The best time looking for insects is after dark. Use a magnifying glass and a



flashlight. You can find lots of cool insects around your porch light in the evening.

- Lizards are out and about during the day.

They like to live around large rocks or

stone walls. If you have a blacklight, see if

you can find scorpions after dark

(scorpions glow green under blacklight).

Have a camera or a cellphone with you to

take pictures. You might be amazed by all

the critters you can find.



When poking around piles of rubble or wood, please pay attention not to disturb snakes that might hide there.

When you have list of animals, see if you can organize them into HERBIVORES, OMNIVORES, and CARNIVORES.

Now you can start to make your first food chains.

See how the energy is moving from the PRODUCERS through all the different CONSUMERS.

How many levels can a food chain have?

How much energy is lost in every level?

Can you use the vocabulary with the graphic? (Some words can be used more than once)

Here is a Food Chain for you to practice!

