

A simple garden shows how a food chain works. Suppose you have lettuce growing in your garden. That lettuce gets energy from sunlight. It also soaks up water and nutrients from the soil. It now has everything it needs to grow. Think of this lettuce as the first link in a garden food chain.

Suppose one night a slug slithers onto the leaf of the lettuce and begins eating it. The energy from the lettuce is now transferred to the slug. The slug becomes the second link in the food chain. In the morning, a beetle comes along and eats the slug. The energy from the slug is now passed on to the beetle, which becomes the third link in the chain.

Just then, along comes a hungry shrew that eats the beetle. Now the shrew is enjoying all the energy in the chain. But the food chain is not over. A wise old owl swoops down, picks up the shrew, and returns to its nest to prepare it for dinner.

## The Food Chain

The owl has no natural predators. That means that there is no animal that tries to kill the owl for food. The owl is at the top of this food chain and benefits from all the energy

passed through all the members of the chain – the lettuce, the slug, the beetle, and the shrew.

There are many different food chains in nature. Each environment has its own food chain. We, too, are part of a food chain. Lucky for us, like the wise old owl, we are also at the top of our chain.

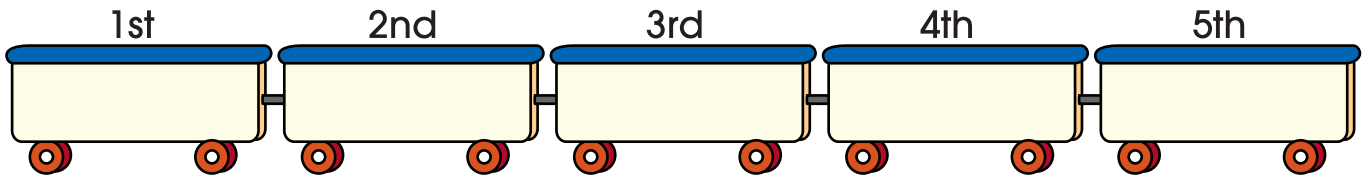




## Understanding Facts

**A. Put the members of this food chain in order.**

the owl    the lettuce    the shrew    the beetle    the slug



## Understanding Information

**B. Answer the following questions about the food chain.**

1. In the food chain, what is the role of the sun and the nutrients in the soil?

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2. What does it mean to transfer energy?

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3. Why do you think that the owl has no natural predators?

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4. If we are part of a food chain, what position in the chain would we be placed?

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5. Can you name three animals that would be at the top of their food chains? (not from the reading passage)

A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_



## Creating Simple Sentences

**C. Unscramble each group of words to make a proper sentence. Remember to look for a subject and a predicate.**

1. game the we won

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2. long it day rained all

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3. cream ice he two ate scoops of

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4. holidays summer finally here are

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5. the test gave teacher students a the

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6. water the up plants soil from soak the

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**D. Match the subjects with the suitable predicates.**

### Subject

### Predicate

1. The old man

A. gathered in the school gymnasium

2. The crying baby

B. walked with a cane

3. The policeman

C. made a lot of noise

4. All the students

D. chased the thief



## Synonyms

- A **Synonym** is a word that means the same as another word.



E. Complete the crossword puzzle with words that match the clues.

*Try to match the synonyms in the word bank to the clue words first.*

### Across

- sad
- oceans
- total
- remain
- finish

### Down

- cut
- rude
- dish
- lower

plate    stay    end    saw  
 unhappy    drop    nasty  
 add    seas

