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Level 30 Life Science & Health 生命科学 & 健康

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Level 3 Life Science & Health 生命科学 & 健康



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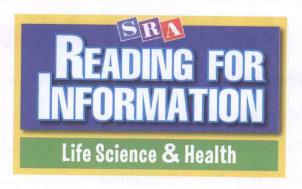


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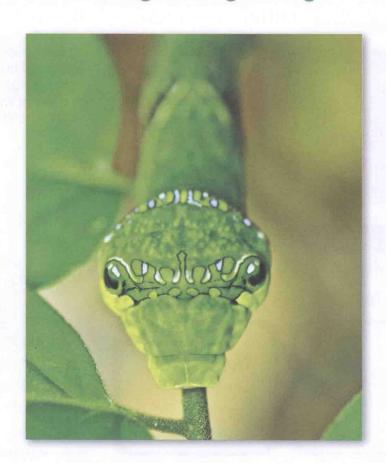
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Linking Living Things





Before You Read

Here are some things you can do to help you read for information.

Features Charts and Diagrams

- A **diagram** is a drawing that shows the parts of something or how something works. Look at the diagram of a food web on page 13. What does the diagram show you?
- A chart is used to organize information so that it's easy to understand.



Information in a chart is grouped into categories. Headings tell you the names of the categories.

Structures Sequence

The word *sequence* means "the order in which things happen."

First, then, and finally are sequence signal words.

First, plants make food.

Then, consumers eat the food. Finally,
decomposers
help return
nutrients to
the soil.

B Vocabulary Words to Know



producers, the food producers make, or other consumers

decomposer a living thing that breaks down wastes and the remains of other living things



Worms are decomposers.

This berry bush is a **producer**.



food chain the set of steps in which living things get the energy they need to survive **food web** a map or diagram that shows how food chains are related

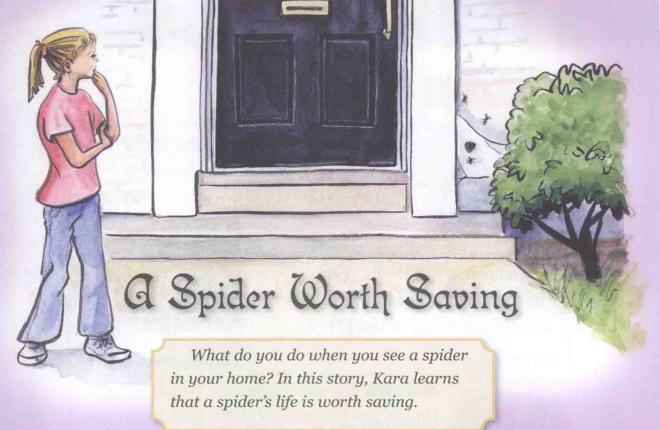


producer a living thing, such as a plant, that makes its own food



Can you identify the two **food chains** in this **food web?**

Life Science



Are Spiders Harmless?

Kara had never liked spiders. In the summer she often saw spiders crawling on the bricks and building webs near the front door of her house. Whenever she saw a spider in the house, she quickly stepped on it.

Kara was learning about **food chains** in school. Her teacher explained that spiders are **consumers**. They eat flies, crickets, beetles, and other insects that are common garden pests. Because they eat insects, spiders help protect food crops from being destroyed. Kara's teacher said that most spiders are harmless to humans.

Saving a Life

"When you see a spider in your house," said Kara's teacher, "remember that it has an important job to do outdoors. Instead of killing it, you can scoop it into a plastic container. Without touching the spider, close the lid. Then, let the spider go outside."

That night, Kara saw a spider inside the house near the front door. At first, she wanted to step on it. But then she remembered what her teacher had said. She ran into the kitchen and asked her mom to help her catch the spider in a plastic container. To their surprise, the spider walked right into the container! Kara and her mom took the container outside. They opened the lid, and the spider walked out.

As the spider walked away,

Kara felt proud. "We saved that spider's life. And we helped a food chain," she said, smiling.

V Comprehension

What important

role do spiders

play in food

chains?



Living Things Need Food

A ll living things need food to survive. Some living things make their own food, and others eat plants or animals. There are also living things that eat decaying or dead plants and animals.

What Is a Producer?

A **producer** is a living thing, such as a plant, that makes its own food. All green plants are producers. Most producers use energy from sunlight to make their own food. They use some of the food they make and store the rest. The smallest producers are made of only one cell. Most of these tiny producers live in water.

The green leaves of plants catch sunlight and use it to make their own food.



What Is a Consumer?

Many living things cannot make their own food. They are called consumers. A **consumer** is any living thing that eats producers, the food producers make, or other consumers. All animals are consumers.

Some consumers, such as deer, eat only plants. Others,

such as lions, eat only other animals. Some consumers eat both plants and animals. Humans are consumers that can eat both plants and animals.

✓ Comprehension

What is an important fact about consumers?

Sheep eat only grass, twigs, leaves, and young plants.

Sea otters eat only animals, such as fish and clams.

How is this person being a consumer?

What Is a Decomposer?

Some living things are decomposers. A **decomposer** is a living thing that breaks down wastes and the remains of other living things. Decomposers are very important to life on Earth.

Decomposers live in air, water, and the soil. Mushrooms, worms, and molds are decomposers you can see. Bacteria are decomposers that are so small you can see them only with the help of a microscope.

When an animal or a plant dies, decomposers break down its remains into simple chemicals. They use some of these chemicals as food. Any chemicals they leave behind are released into the air, water, and soil. Producers use sunlight and some of these chemicals to make food.

Why are decomposers important to life on Earth?



How Living Things Get Their Food				
Living Things	Food	Examples		
producers	use sunlight, water, and air to make their own food			
consumers	eat plants and animals			
decomposers	use the remains of living things for food			