

Food Chains



Read through this key word table and the food chain below to help you understand the vocabulary associated with food chains, then go through the questions at the end and think up some of your own scenarios:

Term	Description
Environment	All the conditions that surround a living organism
Habitat	The place where an organism lives
Population	All the members of a single species that live in a habitat
Community	All the populations of different organisms that live together in a habitat
Ecosystem	A community and the habitat in which organisms live



Algae
Producer



Shrimp
Primary consumer
Herbivore



Frog
Secondary consumer
Carnivore



Trout
Tertiary consumer
Carnivore

The first consumer in the chain is called the *primary consumer*, the next one is the *secondary consumer* and so on.

A consumer that only eats plants is called a *herbivore*, and a consumer that only eats other animals is called a *carnivore*. An *omnivore* is an animal that eats both plants and animals.

A *predator* is an animal that hunts and eats other animals, and the *prey* is the animal that gets eaten by the predator. In the food chain above, the trout is a predator and the frog is its prey. The frog is also a predator and the shrimp is its prey.

Can you think of anything that could change the population size of an organism in a food chain? How do factors such as water pollution, global warming and agriculture affect our river species?

What would happen if climate change causes the shrimp population to decrease?

The amount of algae would increase, which could affect other river species. On top of that, there would be less food available for frogs so the frog population would decrease. Fewer frogs means less food for the trout, so their population may decrease as well.

What if the number of frogs in a river increases one summer?

What would happen if over-fishing led to a big decrease in the trout population?

Follow this link to the BBC Bitesize website to find out more about food chains, food webs and pyramids of numbers:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zq4wjxs/revision/1>

