

Grassland Food Webs: Student Worksheet



Alan Henderson ©

Activity 1

**Food chains & food webs in
a grassland ecosystem
(Level 5)**

Food chains in a grassland ecosystem

1. What is a food chain?

2. Link the following terms to their meanings:

Term	Meaning
Producer	These organisms eat plants.
Consumer	These organisms produce their own energy using the sun, carbon dioxide and nutrients in the soil. These organisms are always at the start of a food chain.
Herbivore	These organisms eat animals.
Carnivore	These organisms eat plants and animals.
Omnivore	These organisms consume other organisms to gain energy.

3. If an insecticide (chemical used to kill weeds) is sprayed on a grassland what might happen to the animals and plants?

BWVP Grassland Food Webs Learning Object

Complete the Very Easy Food Chain and Easy Food Web using the BWVP Grasslands Food Webs learning object.

4. Draw the food chain in the space below.

5. Draw the food web in the space below.

6. Complete the following table. Tick whether the organism is a producer or consumer, herbivore or carnivore.

Organism	Producer	Consumer	Herbivore	Carnivore
Common Everlasting Daisy				
Australian Painted Lady				
Spotted Marsh Frog				
Growling Grass Frog				
Tiger Snake				

7. Which organism is the top predator?

8. Which organisms eat other animals?

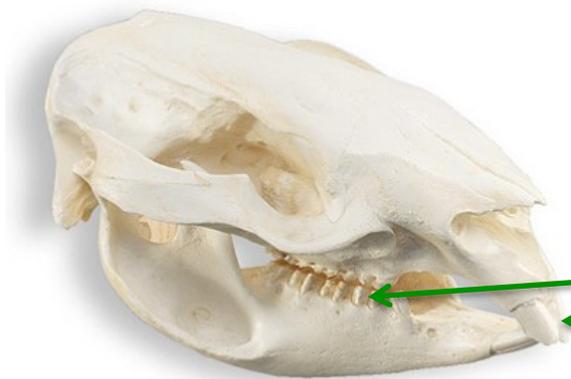
Adaptations

You can guess the diet of a mammal by looking at its teeth. There are three different types of teeth:

- Incisors are located at the front of the mouth and used for biting and cutting
- Canines are next along and are long and sharp, and used for tearing and piercing
- Molars are at the back of the mouth and are used for chewing and grinding

Explore teeth in mammals with different diets.

9. Look at the skull images and diet information. Identify whether the animal is a herbivore or carnivore. Label the teeth in the spaces provided as incisor, canine or molar.

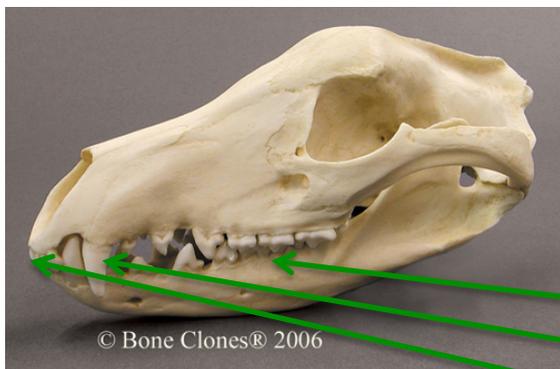


Wombat

Diet: Eats roots, shoots, leaves, grasses, herbs and mosses

Circle either Herbivore or Carnivore

Source: Southern Biological



Tasmanian Tiger

Diet: Eats wallabies and other small animals and birds

Circle either Herbivore or Carnivore

Source: Southern Biological

10. Which type of teeth are present in carnivores but not present in herbivores? Why?

Conclusion

11. Are plants always at the base of the food chain?

12. Why are green plants called producers?

13. Why are animals considered consumers?

14. The arrows in a food chain point in which direction?

15. If you take one organism out of a food chain, how does this affect all the other plants and animals in the food chain?

16. What adaptation do you think animals need to effectively hunt prey?

17. How are teeth of herbivores and carnivores different?
