

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**  
**GRADE 8**  
**INTEGRATED SCIENCE**

**Week 6**

**Lesson 2**

**Topic:** Feeding relationships in the ecosystem

**Sub-topic:** Food Web

**Objectives:** Given pictures of food webs, students will:

- briefly explain how specific organisms are adapted to live in their habitat
- describe the differences between food chains and webs
- correctly construct food webs with at least ten organisms

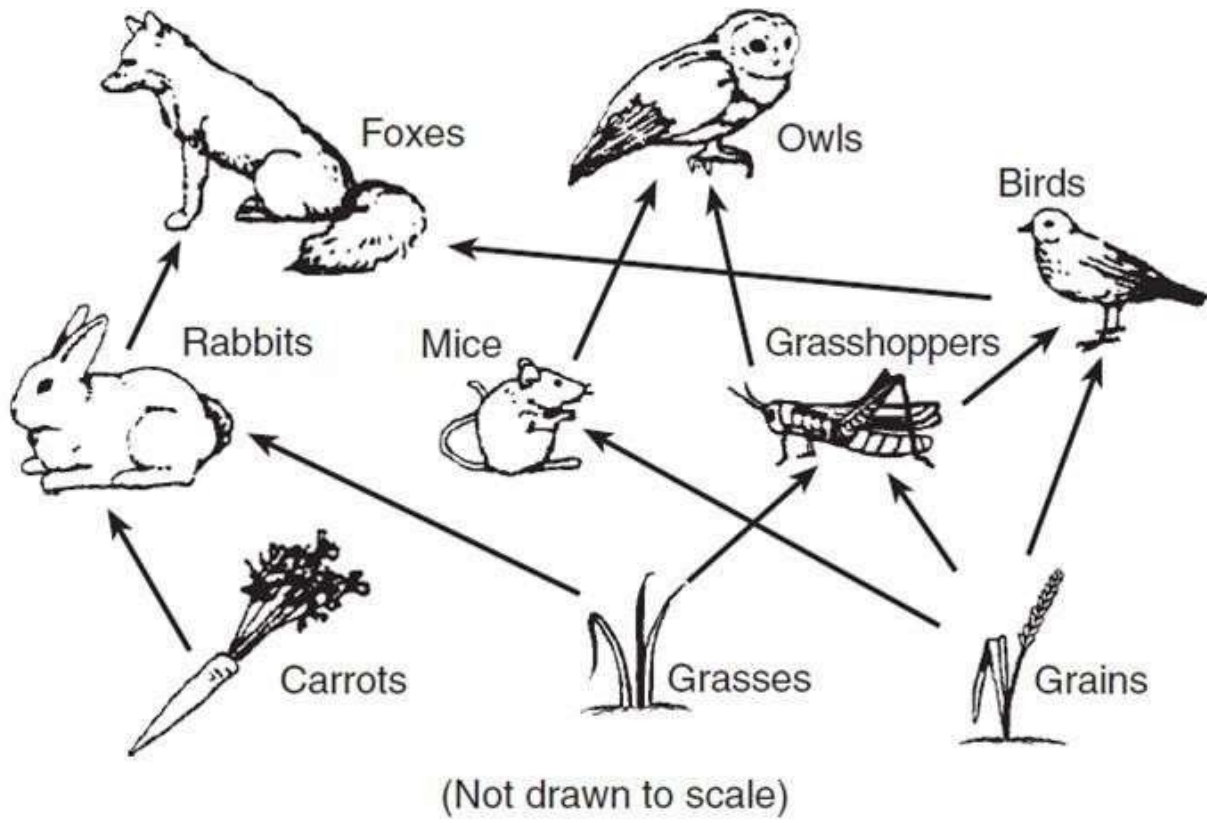
**Content**

**Food Web**

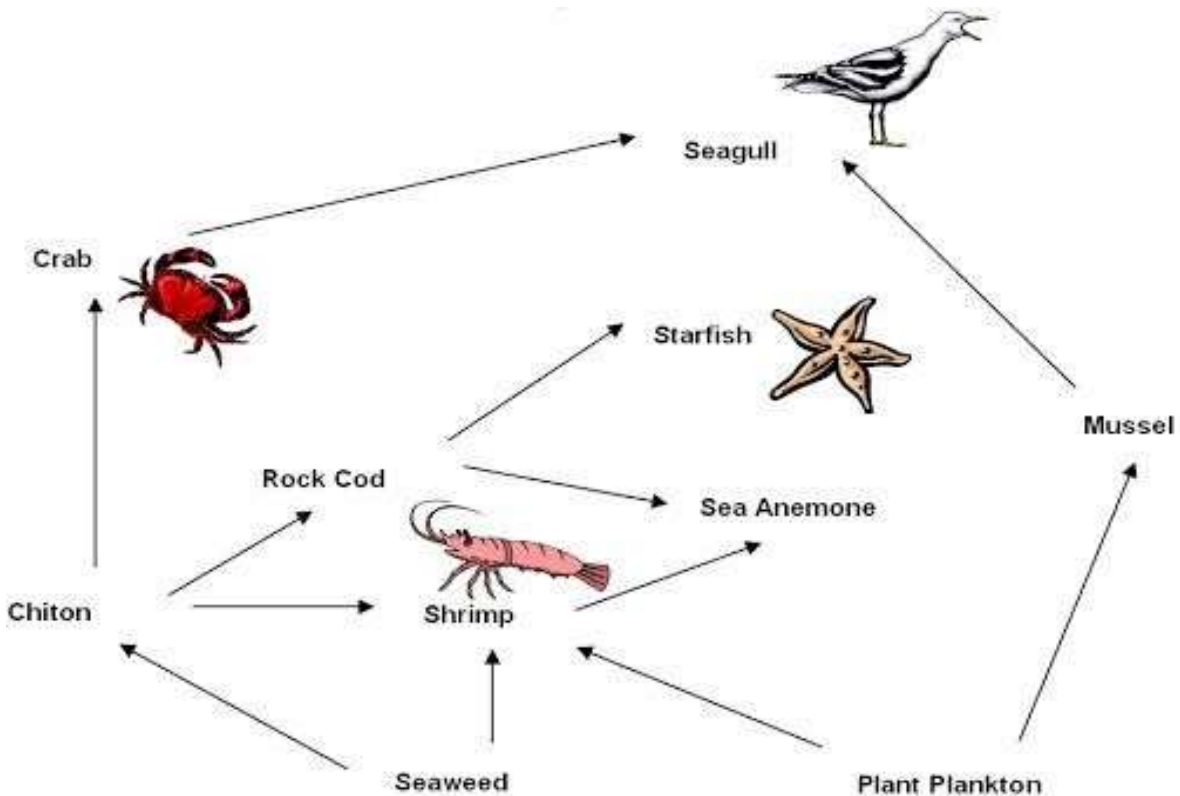
Food webs are overlapping food chains. A food chain differs from a food web because the complex network of different animals' feeding relations are aggregated and the chain only follows a direct, linear pathway of one animal at a time. Natural interconnections between food chains make it a food web.

In a community of living things, there can hardly be only simple food chains, since many organisms are eaten by consumers of different levels. In other words, most organisms get food from different sources and therefore, from different food levels. For example, birds eat insects, but they also eat worms, small fish, spiders and other parts of plants. Therefore, organisms could be a part of more than one food chain. The food chain in this case would overlap. When food chains overlap they form a food web. Food webs show the interaction of different kinds of organisms. In both food chains and food webs, we observe that plants play a major role as the producers.

An example of a Terrestrial Food Web



## An example of an Aquatic Food Web



## Homework

1. From the food webs above construct 3 food chains.
2. Explain what would happen if the mice were removed from the food web above.
3. Explain what is meant by Trophic level.

## References

1. Blackman, S., Bernard, M., Dalgety, F., & Sadoo, d.s (2000) Science in Daily Life Bk.2. Georgetown, Guyana. Ministry of Education, Guyana
2. [https://www.google.com/search?q=food+web&hl=en&sxsrif=ALeKk00ZX56KCT1g4DZ1YTfrangL0WztYw:1600189486192&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwig55av0uvrAhWBTt8KHcg3BBUQ\\_AUoAXoECBYQAw&biw=1600&bih=789#imgrc=I9lwKvAnIHCCpM](https://www.google.com/search?q=food+web&hl=en&sxsrif=ALeKk00ZX56KCT1g4DZ1YTfrangL0WztYw:1600189486192&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwig55av0uvrAhWBTt8KHcg3BBUQ_AUoAXoECBYQAw&biw=1600&bih=789#imgrc=I9lwKvAnIHCCpM)