

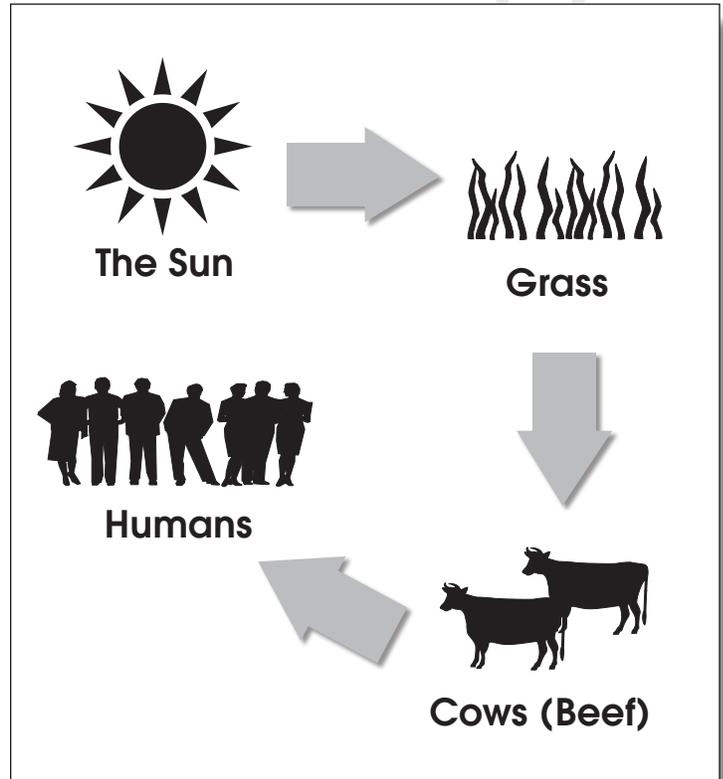


# Food Chains & Food Webs



## What Is a Food Chain?

**W**e just learned that all organisms depend on each other for food and energy. We also learned that all food is produced using the Sun's energy. Some organisms use the Sun's energy directly for food (for example, plants). Others eat other organisms because they cannot make their own food. And others break down nutrients in dead organisms to make food for others. We call these producers, consumers, and decomposers. If you look at the drawing to the right, you will see many arrows. These arrows show how each organism is dependent on another organism. It looks like a long chain. We call this the **food chain**. Each part is linked or dependent on another part.



**Draw a diagram like a food web using different people in your family. How are you dependent on each other?**

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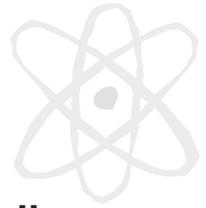


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Do humans only eat one type of food? Of course not. There are no organisms that eat only one type of food. Every organism depends on more than one other organism for food. That is why the **food chain** looks very busy. In a food chain diagram, every organism would have more than one arrow coming towards it or going away from it. The arrows overlap each other. Have you ever looked closely at a spider's web? The many arrows in a food chain look very similar to a spider's web. That is why we call the busy interactions between organisms a **food web**.



# The Water Cycle



## 1. Number the events from **1** to **4** in the order they occur in the WATER CYCLE.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **a) Condensation:** Water vapor in the air gets cold and turns back into a liquid. Clouds are formed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **b) Precipitation:** So much water has condensed that air can not hold it anymore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **c) Collection:** Precipitation falls back to Earth through lakes, oceans and through the soil in land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **d) Evaporation:** The Sun heats up from lakes, oceans and land. Water is turned into vapor or steam.

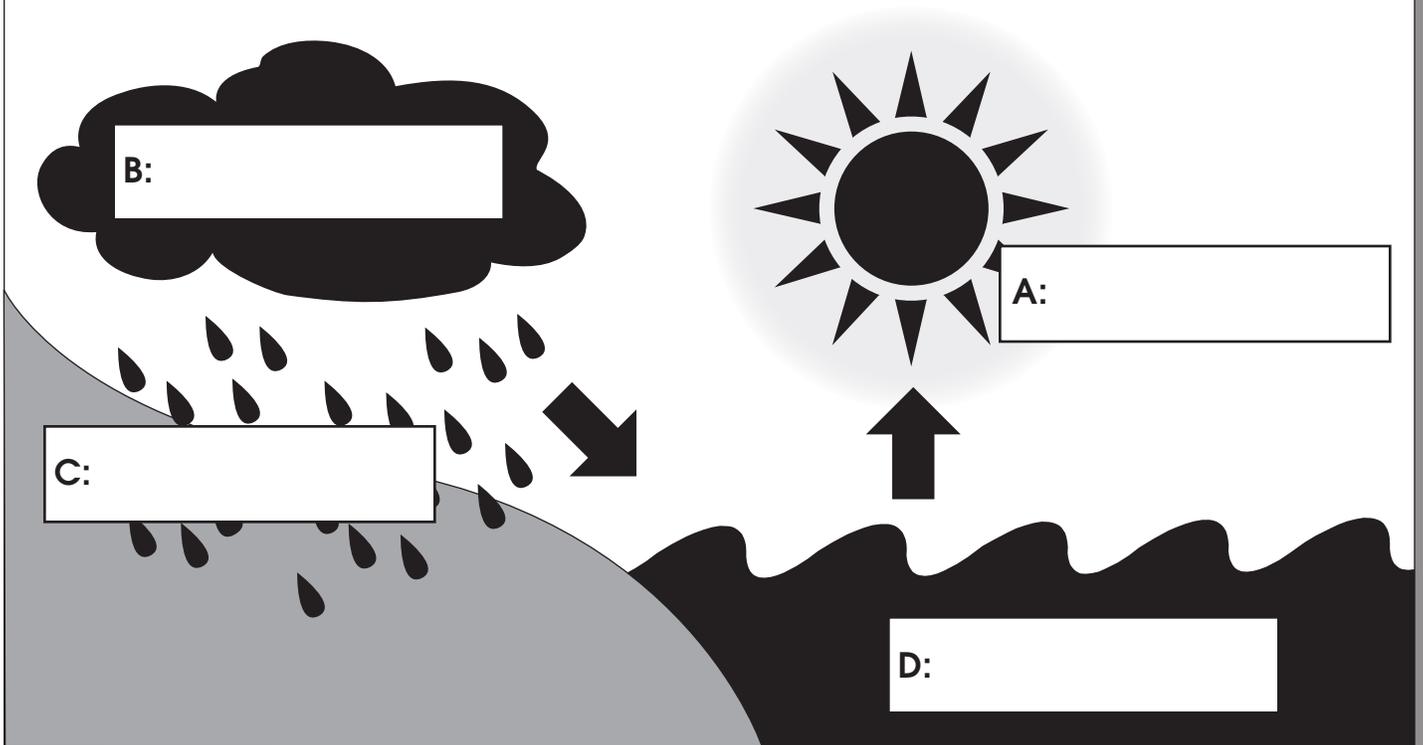
## 2. Label the diagram below using words from the list.

precipitation

condensation

evaporation

collection





# Build Your Own Ecosystem!

We have talked and read about so many ecosystems.  
Now it is time to build your own!

## COLLECT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

- Gravel or small rocks
- Soil/dirt
- A jar or bottle (with a large enough top to put your hand into)
- A lid for your jar or bottle to seal it  
(you can seal it with tape if you think air can get into the jar)
- A few plants from the school yard or a garden
- Small animals from the garden  
(worms, snails, slugs, etc.)
- Wood, garden rocks or branches to make it look like a real ecosystem



## WHAT YOU WILL DO:

1. Put a large handful of gravel or small rocks in the bottom of your jar.
2. Add a large handful of soil.
3. Plant the plants into the soil. Try to choose plants that fit into your jar. If it's a small jar, only use small plants. If you put too many plants in, they will not survive!
4. If you think your ecosystem needs water, add a bit of water. Don't over water your ecosystem though!
5. **This is the fun bit...** choose some animals. Use anything you can find in the school yard or garden. Remember, choose small animals. You want these animals to survive!
6. Close your ecosystem. Put the lid on or use tape to seal it.

Now it's time to record your observations!

## ON A PIECE OF PAPER, record the following things:

- Size of your container (you may want to draw a picture of your ecosystem)
- Number and type of plants and animals you used
- How much soil you used
- What is happening in your system? Count your animals and record if your plants are growing. Have all of your plants and animals survived?

Have fun building your own ecosystem!