



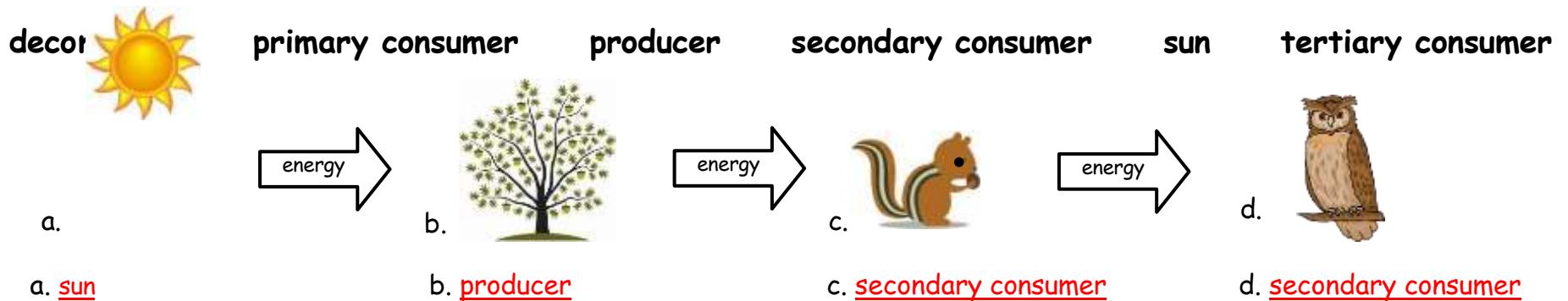
# Find a Food Chain

## Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Part 1: Answer the questions below.

1. What is a food chain? A food chain is a hierarchical series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of food and energy. A food chain describes who eats what and traces the flow of energy and nutrients through an ecosystem.
2. Label the part(s) of a food chain in the diagram below using the following vocabulary words (some words will not be used):



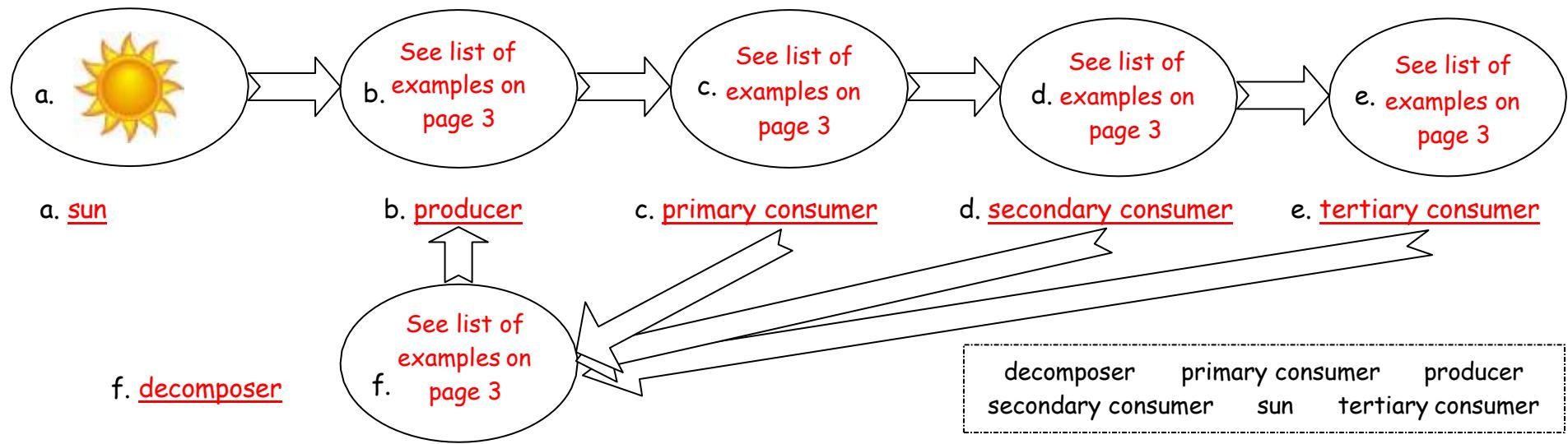
3. How does a plant get energy from the sun? Photosynthesis - the process in which plants use the energy from the sun to convert water and carbon dioxide from the air into sugars (or food) for the plant.

4. How does an animal get its energy? An animal gets its energy from the plants or other animals it eats. Our bodies use the nutrients and energy from the food to give us energy to move, grow, and stay warm.



**Part 2:** Explore the habitat lab and look for a decomposer. Use the Example Food Chain Components chart on page 3 along with field guides like the National Audubon's Field Guide to the Southeastern States and/or the Alabama Wildlife Federation's Dig into Plants and Wonders of Wildlife webpages to answer the following questions:

5. What decomposer did you find in the habitat lab? See list on page 3 for examples of what can be found.
6. How does it get its energy to survive and reproduce? It gets nutrients and energy by breaking down dead organisms and/or animal waste.
7. How does it provide energy for other living organisms? They release nutrients (via excrement) back into the soil for producers to use and start the food chain all over again.
8. Draw a picture of the decomposer you found in the circle below where it would be located in a food chain. Next, fill in the other links with animal(s) or plant(s) in the food chain of the decomposer you found, and then draw and label them using the vocabulary words in the box below. The arrows show the flow of energy through the food chain.



# EXAMPLE FOOD WEB COMPONENTS

(A component is one part or element of the larger whole.)

| Plants<br>(Producers) | Herbivores<br>(Primary Consumers) | Omnivores<br>(Secondary/Tertiary Consumers) | Carnivores<br>(Secondary/Tertiary Consumers) | Detritivores &<br>Fungus<br>(Decomposers) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Grasses               | Armyworms                         | Ants  | Spiders                                      | Mushrooms                                 |
| Wildflowers           | Caterpillars                      | Wasps                                       | Fleas  | Worms                                     |
| Herbs                 | Butterflies                       | Lady Bugs                                   | Ticks  | Spiders                                   |
| Shrubs                | Bees                              | Crickets                                    | Bats   | Ants                                      |
| Trees                 | Moths                             | Mosquitos                                   | Snakes                                       | Flies                                     |
| Nuts                  | Grasshoppers                      | Songbirds                                   | *Alligators                                  | Beetles                                   |
| Berries               | Treehoppers                       | Squirrels & Chipmunks                       | *Some Fish                                   | Millipedes                                |
| Acorns                | Leafhoppers                       | Opossums                                    | *Owls  | Pill Bugs/Roly Polies                     |
| Pinecones             | Katydid                           | Racoons                                     | *Bobcats                                     | Cockroaches                               |
| Seeds                 | Deer                              | Skunks                                      | *Hawks                                       | Snails                                    |
| Fruits                | Beavers                           | Frogs & Toads                               |  | Slugs                                     |
| Aquatic plants        | Rabbits                           | Salamanders                                 |  |   |
| Algae                 | Some Fish                         | Turtles                                     |  |   |
|                       |                                   | Lizards                                     |  |   |
|                       |                                   | *Foxes (Red and Gray)                       |  |   |
|                       |                                   | *Coyotes                                    |  |   |
|                       |                                   | *Black Bears                                |  | *Apex Predators                           |

