Food Chains and Food Webs and Trophic Levels

6.4 Food Chains and Food Webs

<https://bio.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Introductory_and_General_Biology/Book%3A_Introductory_Biology_(CK-12)/06%3A_Ecology/6.04%3A_Food_Chains_and_Food_Webs>

1. What is a food chain? A food chain represents a single pathway by which energy and matter flow through an ecosystem.
2. Describe the role of decomposers in food webs. The decomposers tear apart dead organisms into nutrients for other animals.
3. Why is a food web more realistic than a food chain? A food web represents multiple pathways through which energy and matter flow through an ecosystem. It includes many intersecting food chains. It demonstrates that most organisms eat, and are eaten, by more than one species. So basically a food web does all the stuff that a food chain does and more.

6.5 Trophic Levels

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1. What is a trophic level? A trophic level is the feeding position in a food chain or web.
2. What do energy pyramids depict? Energy pyramids depict the flow of energy at each trophic level in an ecosystem.
3. Explain how energy limits the number of trophic levels in a food chain or web. It is because the energy is lost in the transfer from one level to the next.