

Do you know that the sun is the source of all energy on Earth? Sunlight provides the energy plants use to make their food. In turn, plants provide energy to the animals that eat them. Some of those animals are eaten by others. They too are a source of energy.

You are a link in this chain. You might eat only plants or you might eat plants and animals. But you still get all your energy from other living things. You are part of the energy flow. Scientists call it the **transfer of energy**.



**From which animals and plants are the twins getting energy?**

The girls eating the ice cream are getting energy from cows (milk), sugar cane, wheat (cone), and other plants depending on the ice

cream flavour. Nuts, strawberries, vanilla, and chocolate all come from plants.

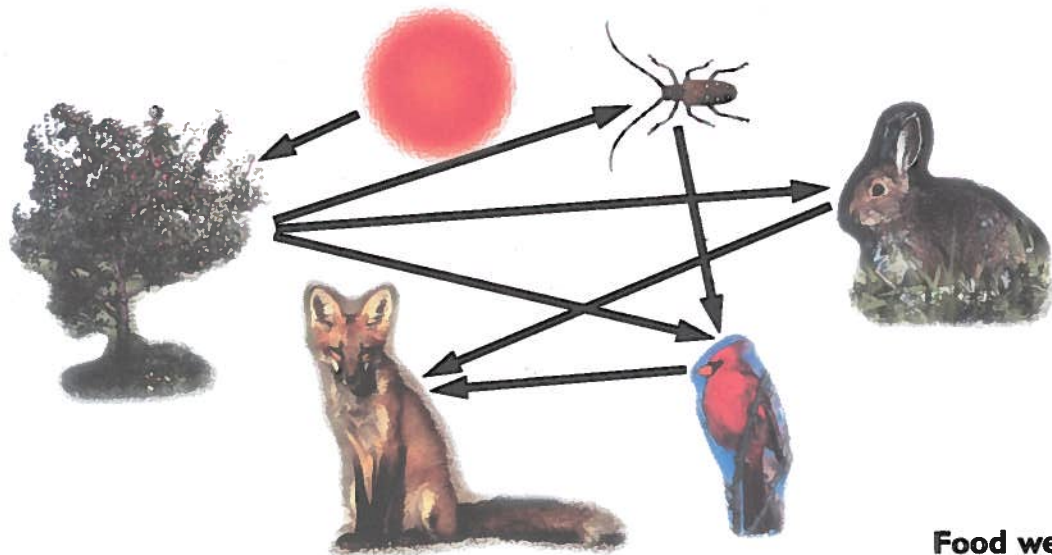
Living things can be sorted into two main groups, based on energy flow. The groups are called producers and consumers. **Producers** are the living things that can make their own food. They don't need to eat other living things. Green plants are producers. The other group, the **consumers**, eat other living things. Some consumers, like deer and grasshoppers, eat green plants. Other consumers, such as owls, snakes, and spiders, eat other animals.

All living things are part of a huge feeding system. For example, sunlight is used by apple trees to grow and to make apples. The leaves are eaten by insects, which are eaten by birds. Rabbits eat fallen apples and the rabbit becomes dinner for a fox. Both of these links are called food chains. We usually show food chains as:

sun → apple leaves → insects → birds

sun → apples → rabbits → foxes

**Food chains** cross and crisscross to form **food webs**. Every living thing is connected to something else which, in turn is connected to something else. All living things are part of a huge web of life.



**Food web**