

Arctic Food Web

Living things need food in order to survive. A food chain shows how living things need each other for food. A green plant is usually found at the bottom of a food chain. The plant uses energy from the sun to carry on a process called photosynthesis. This allows the plant to produce its own food. As a result, the plant in a food chain is called a producer.

The producer, or plant, is eaten by an animal that is a herbivore, which is an animal that eats only plants, or an omnivore, which is an animal that eats plants and other animals. On the food chain, the animal that eats the producer is called a consumer. This is because it consumes the producer.

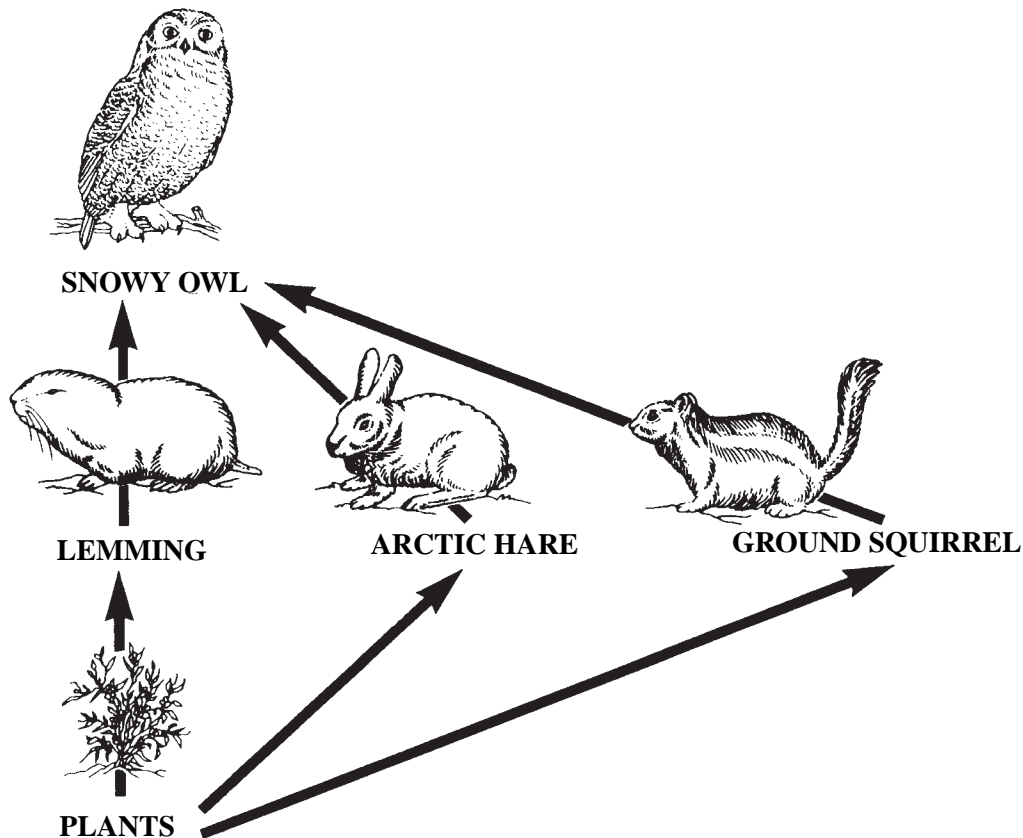
In the next part of a food chain, the consumer is eaten by an omnivore or by another animal called a carnivore, which is an animal that eats only meat. This animal is also called a consumer.

Here is an example of a food chain. Notice that the arrows start with the producer and point toward the consumers.



There are many food chains living in a community. Some are very simple, while others are more complex. Since most animals eat more than one type of food, they might have several different food chains that can be made. When food chains connect or overlap, it is called a food web. If one part of the food web becomes extinct, the entire web may be affected, causing drastic consequences.

Here is an example of a food web:



The Arctic Food Web *(cont.)*

Use page 51 to learn about food chains and food webs. Then do the activity on this page.

Do research to find out what kinds of things a wolf eats. Write down at least five of them. Some of the things a wolf eats are prey, or other animals. Research further to find out what those animals eat. Then use the space below to develop a food web using this information. Here is an example of a food chain that you can include as part of your food web: A wolf eats an Arctic squirrel which eats nuts and other plants.



WOLF

