

For Creative Minds

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Use the information in the story to answer the following questions. Answers are upside down.

Herbivore or Carnivore?

Plants (**producers**) make their own food from sunlight (**photosynthesis**). Most plants absorb nutrients from soil using roots. Soil nutrients come from decaying things that were once alive.



Animals that eat plants are called **consumers** or **herbivores**. Which animal in the story is an herbivore? What part of a plant was it eating?

Animals that eat other animals are **carnivores**. The bobcat is a carnivore. What animal did it eat?

Predator or Prey?

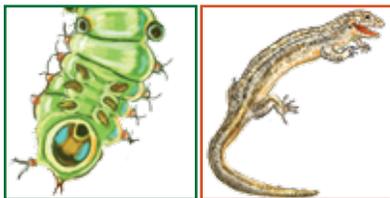
A carnivore is a **predator** that has to find other animals to eat (**prey**). A predator of one animal might be prey for another animal. Which is predator and which is prey?



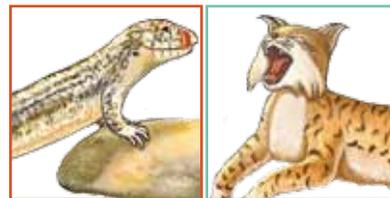
beetle and snake

snake and hawk

bass and frog



caterpillar and lizard



lizard and bobcat

Answers: Herbivore or Carnivore?: The caterpillar eats leaves. The bobcat ate the lizard. Predator or Prey?: beetle: predator; snake: prey/hawk: predator; bass: predator/frog: prey; caterpillar: prey/lizard: predator; lizard: prey/bobcat: predator

Food Chains: True or False?

All of the plants and animals that are eaten by or that eat a particular animal are part of that animal's **food chain**. A habitat will have many different food chains that are linked together, called a **food web**. The plants and animals in this book all live in or around freshwater. Using the information in the book, see if you can figure out which statements are true and which are false.



- 1 The hawk, fish, and bobcat are shown in the same food chain.
- 2 A healthy adult animal is at the top of its food chain if it does not have natural predators. The snake is at the top of its food chain.
- 3 Nothing eats animals that are at the top of their food chain.
- 4 Habitats are communities of plants, animals, and non-living things that interact in certain locations. In order for plants and animals to be in the same food chain, they must be in the same habitat.

Answers: 1) False: They are shown in separate food chains. If the snake ate the frog or the frog ate the caterpillar, that would link food chains together in a food web. 2) False: The hawk is the top predator shown in that food chain. 3) False: This is a trick question. There are no predators to kill the top animals that are healthy adults. Predators may go after young animals or adults that are ill or injured. When they die, as all animals do, bacteria and scavengers eat the dead and decaying body. That returns nutrients to the soil for plants to grow—starting the cycle all over again. 4) True.

Animal Classification

Use the information in the story to identify the animal. Then use the clue(s) and the animal classification information to figure out to which animal class the animal belongs. Answers are upside down, below.

Vertebrates are animals that have backbones.

Invertebrates do not have backbones.

Warm-blooded animals make their own heat and have a constant body temperature.

Cold-blooded animals' body temperature comes from their surroundings.

Reptiles (vertebrates) have dry scales or plates, are cold-blooded, use lungs to breathe oxygen from the air, and most young hatch from eggs.

Mammals (vertebrates) have hair, fur, or whiskers; are warm-blooded; use lungs to breathe oxygen from the air; and most are born alive.

Birds (vertebrates) are the only animals with feathers, are warm-blooded, use lungs to breathe oxygen from the air, and all young hatch from eggs.

Amphibians (vertebrates) have soft, moist skin and are cold-blooded. Most young (tadpoles or larvae) live in water and use gills to breathe; adults live on land and use lungs to breathe.

Most fishes (vertebrates) have wet, slime-covered scales. All fishes are cold-blooded, use gills to breathe, and can either be born alive or hatch from eggs.

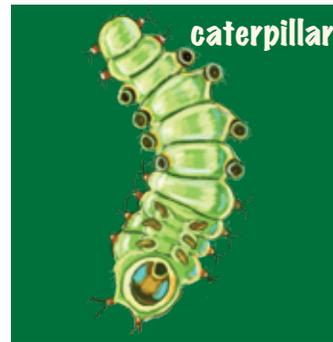
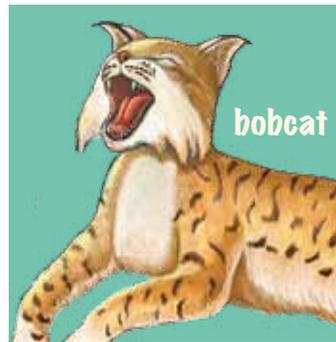
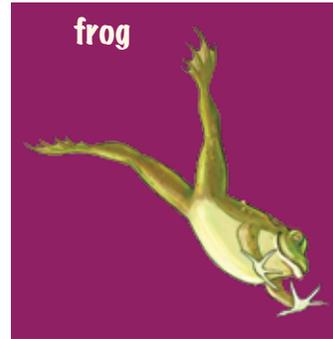
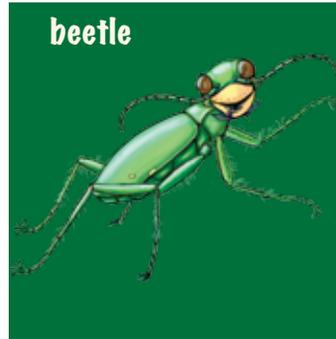
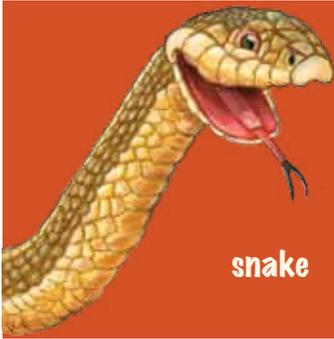
Insects (invertebrates) have hard outer covering. Adults have three body parts: head, thorax, & abdomen; three pairs of (six) legs, usually two pairs of wings and one pair of antennae. Most hatch from eggs but some have live birth.

1. Which animal has six legs?
2. Which animal is cold-blooded and has a spine (another word for backbone)?
3. Which animal has feathers to help it fly?
4. Which animal likes land and water?
5. Which animal has gills and wet scales?
6. Which animal has dry scales?
7. Which animal has fur?

Answers: 1) beetle/insect, 2) snake/reptile and bass/fish, 3) hawk/bird, 4) frog/amphibian, 5) bass/fish, 6) lizard/reptile, 7) bobcat/mammal

Animal Adaptations Matching

Can you match the animal to its description? Answers are upside down.



- 1 I'm a young insect. When I grow up, I'll be a moth or a butterfly.
- 2 My back feet have webs to help me swim through the water.
- 3 I don't have any legs so I slither on the ground. I use my forked tongue to sense what's around me.
- 4 I use my tail to push me through the water.
- 5 I use my sharp teeth and claws to catch my prey.
- 6 I shed my skin when I grow and use my tongue to help smell what's around me, just like a snake.
- 7 I don't have bones but I do have a hard outer shell to protect me.
- 8 I use my sharp talons to grab prey and to hold onto tree branches.

Answers: 1) caterpillar, 2) frog, 3) snake, 4) bass, 5) bobcat, 6) lizard, 7) beetle, 8) hawk