

# Rainforest Food Webs

By, Mary Jane

“Mmm!” Is what you would say if you looked at hot cheetos. Mmm! Is what a tiger would say if he looked at a monkey! Everything in the rainforest, from a worm to a tiger, is part of the rainforest **food web**. **A food web is when all the food chains in one area come together. A food chain shows the feeding relationship between organisms in an ecosystem. All of the plants and animals in the rainforest need each other to survive. They all get their energy from each other through the endless food web. In this text, I will teach you about the rainforest food web from the producers all the way down to decomposers. The rainforest food web is the most AMAZING food web of them all, and deserves to be known!**

**Producers are an important part of the food web. They are in the very beginning, kind of the base. Producers are organisms that get their energy from the sun. Grass is one example of a producer. Grass gets their energy from the sun. If you’ve noticed, grass that is in the shade all the time dies because it has no sun. Most of the time, producers are plants, but not all plants are producers. Plants that are not producers get their energy from other living things.**

Producers make their own food inside them with energy from the sun. That's called photosynthesis. Producers gather all their energy and food and store it in their bodies.

Producers can't just live off of the sun, they also need water. So, in conclusion, without producers, there would be no consumers, decomposers, or life!

**Consumers can be just about anything as long as they get their energy from other living things (so that's like everything - plants, animals as long as it's alive). Now, I don't mean "ANYTHING", consumers can't be Furreal Friends, they can only be living things. Consumers are living things that eat other living things for energy. There are three levels of consumers, **primary**(the lowest, who eat plants), **secondary**(eat other consumers, but can get eaten themselves), and **top level**(eat all other consumers and nothing can eat them, they are at the top of the food chain). An example of a primary consumer is a grasshopper. Grasshoppers eat plants, but other consumers eat them. Primary consumers are **herbivores, which means they only eat plants.** Primary consumers can be killed by higher level consumers. An example of a secondary consumer would be a monkey. Monkeys eat bugs but can get eaten themselves. An example of a top level consumer would be a tiger. Tigers eat only meat, and they are at the top of the food chain, nothings higher, so nothing eats them. Some consumers are **omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals,****

they are usually secondary consumers. An example of one is a monkey. Consumers can also be carnivores. **Carnivores only eat meat. To recap, consumers are animals that eat and get their energy from other living things,**

**Decomposers are at the very bottom of the food chain, they're kind of like mother nature's cleaners. Decomposers are organisms that get energy by breaking down dead plants and animals. An example of a decomposer is a mushroom. Now, you may have thought a mushroom is a plant, but it is not. Mushrooms grow on dead things and break them down. Mushrooms are a type of fungi. Decomposers grow on dead things that used to be living. Decomposers can be bacteria, yeast, etc. Decomposers only get their energy from dead things. Without decomposers, our world would be covered in dead plants and animals!**

**Today, you learned about one of the most amazing ways that all the animals in the rainforest work together and build a lifelong bond, the food web. So, now you know about consumers, decomposers, and producers. Producers are at the base, the beginning of the food chain, they started it all. They get their energy from the sun. Consumers can be herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores. They are in the middle to the top of the food chain. They get their energy from eating other living things. Decomposers are at the bottom of the food chain. They get their energy by breaking down dead plants and animals. Then, that nutrients returns**

to the soil and goes to the plants and the food chain starts all over again. But, the food web starts with the sun, the sun gives its energy to the plants and thus begins the food web. In conclusion, all plants and animals in the rain forest and all over the world survive through the food web. It's the only time all animals and plants come together and connect to become something amazing. But, something is happening. People are killing the animals in the rainforest and it is disrupting the food web. If we don't act soon, the whole rainforest community will fall, and the rainforest food web and animals forgotten. If we leave nature alone, none of this will happen. We can be heroes and save the rainforest, and all you have to do is let it be. Remember, in a food web, one thing can change everything. Let's keep things the way they are so the rainforest can keep thriving and always be known!