

Name _____

Unraveling the Web of Life: Understanding Food Webs in Ecology

Short Answer Key

1. A food web shows multiple interconnected food chains, while a food chain represents a single path of energy flow.
2. Decomposers break down dead organisms and organic matter, recycling nutrients back into the ecosystem.
3. An example of a secondary consumer is a snake, which feeds on primary consumers such as mice.
4. Food webs are important in ecology because they reveal the interdependence of species, the complexity of ecological relationships, and how changes in one part of the web can affect other organisms.
5. Changes in one part of a food web can cascade through the ecosystem, affecting the abundance and distribution of other organisms.

