



Term 3, Lesson 7

Food Chains & Food Webs

Learning Objectives:

1. Differentiate between a food chain and a food web and identify organisms at different trophic levels.
2. Describe the diet of Australian freshwater turtles and how it varies among species.

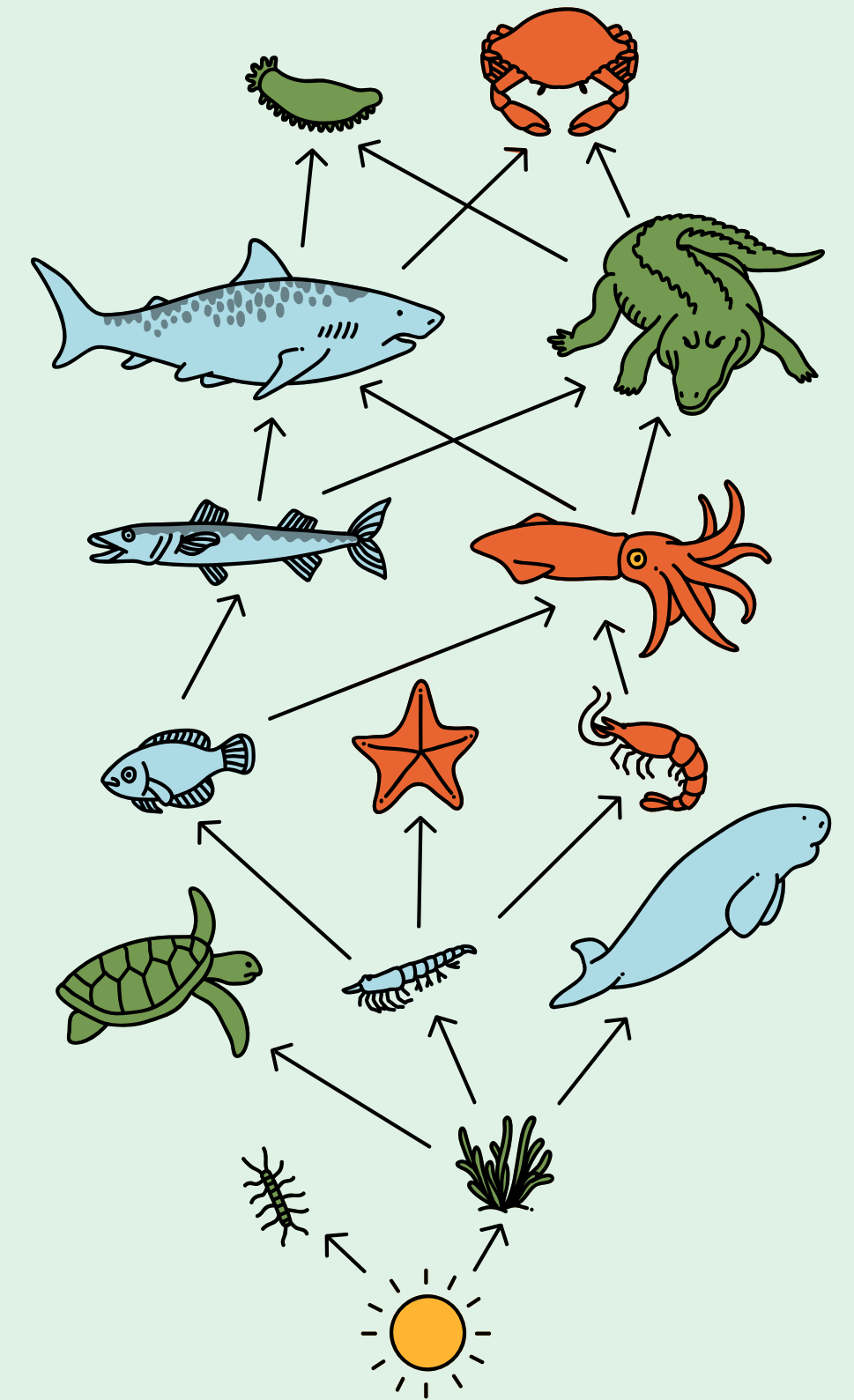


Photo credit: Dr. James Van Dyke

Food Chain and Food Web

Food chain - a linear sequence that shows the transfer of energy and nutrients from one organism to another.

Food web - consists of many interconnected food chains. A food web shows the feeding relationships among different organisms. In a food web, organisms can have multiple predators or prey



Example of a food web

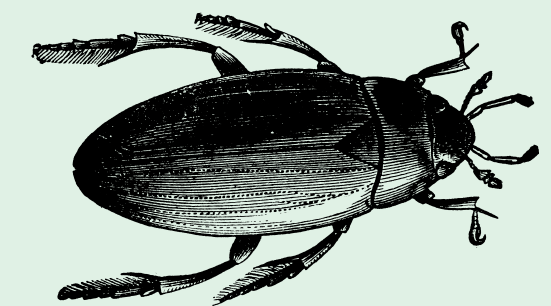
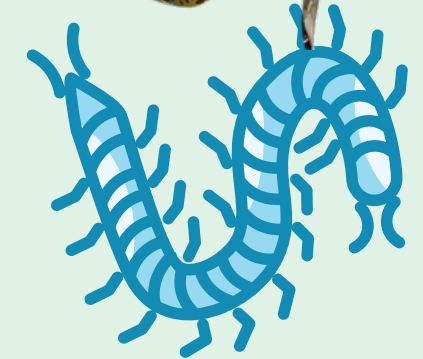
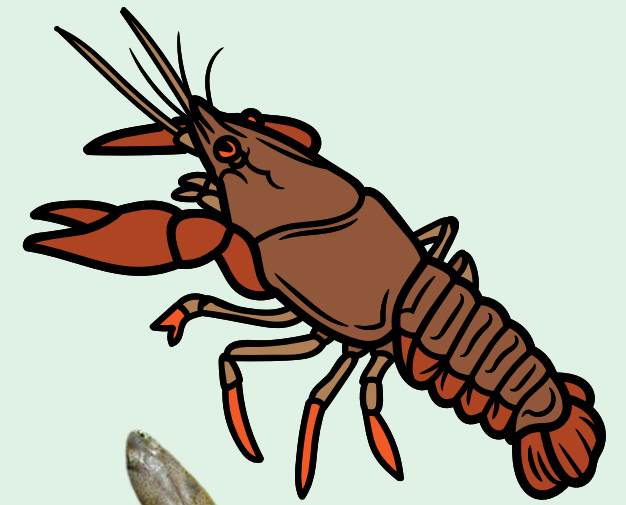
Herbivores: animals that primarily eat plants.

Omnivores: animals that consume both plant and animal matter.

Carnivores: animals that primarily eat other animals.

Detritivores: organisms that feed on decaying organic matter, such as dead plants and animals.

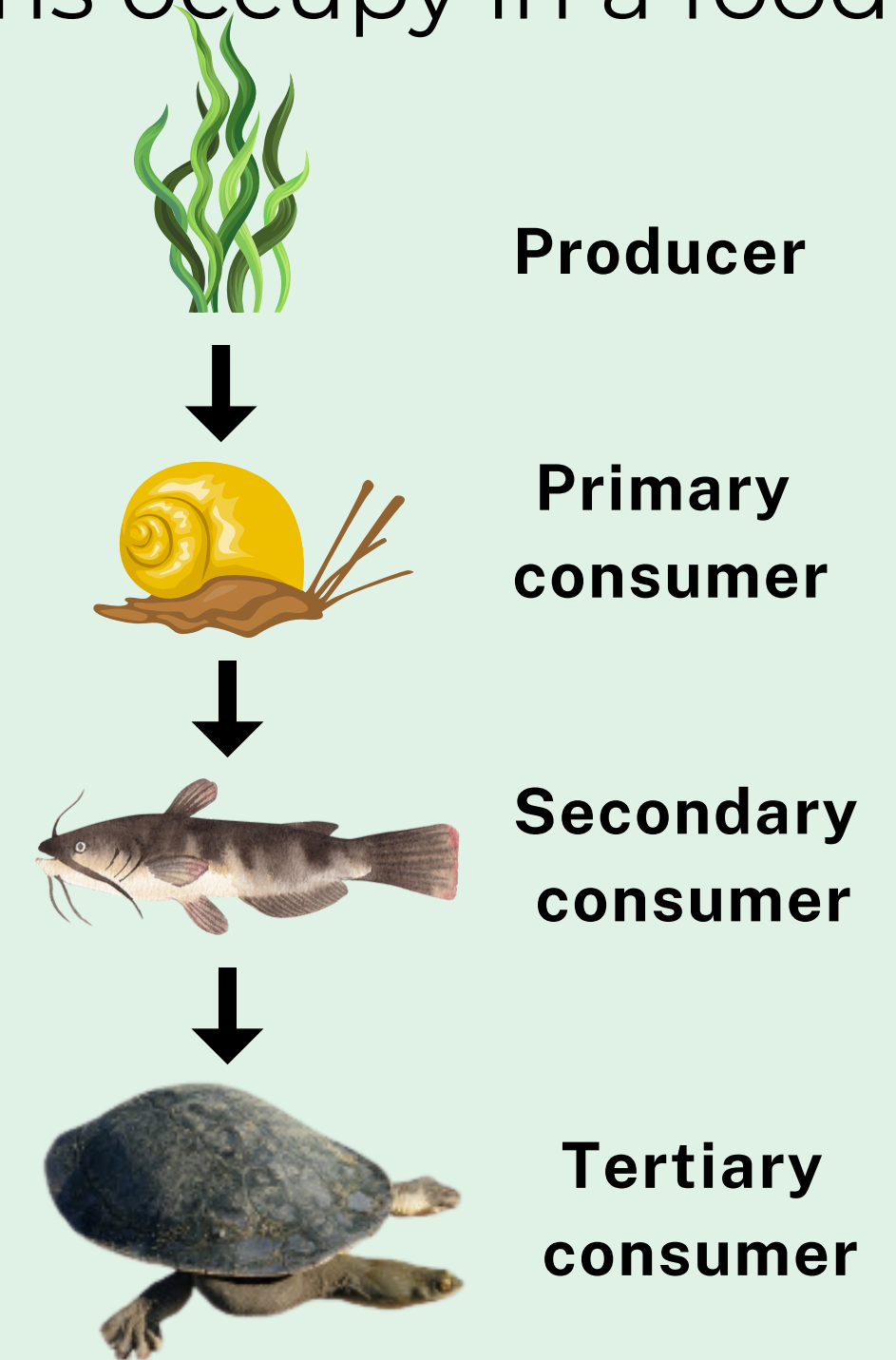
Scavengers: animals that primarily feed on dead and decaying animals or carrion.



Trophic Levels

Trophic levels refers to the positions that organisms occupy in a food chain or food web.

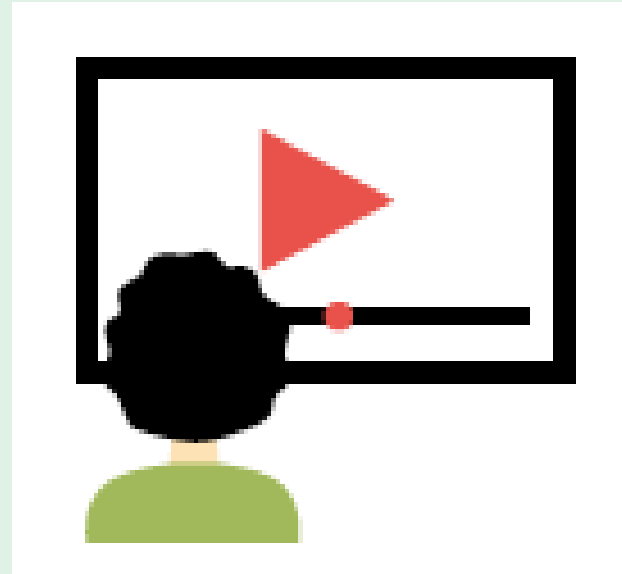
- **Producers** - plants occupy the first trophic level as they convert sunlight into energy through photosynthesis.
- **Primary consumers** - animals that feed on plants (i.e. herbivores).
- **Secondary consumers** - animals that eat primary consumers.
- **Tertiary consumers** - larger carnivores that eat secondary consumers.



Classroom Activities

Activity 1 - Video: Food chains & food webs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuO4WB4SwCg>



- As a class discuss what you learnt from the video. Write your ideas on the whiteboard.

Classroom Activities

Activity 2 -

- Research the diet of an Australian freshwater turtle species.

Answer the following questions about the species diet:

Q1: What prey items does the species eat?

Q2: Is the species a herbivore, omnivore or carnivore?

Q3: How does the species anatomy (i.e. neck length, jaw structure) support the diet?

Include references and/or a bibliography.

Classroom Activities

Activity 3 -

- Design a food chain flip book.
- Include your Australian freshwater turtle species from the previous activity in your flip book.

