

## Student Exploration: Food Chain

Directions: Follow the instructions to go through the simulation. Respond to the questions and prompts in the orange boxes. Change your text color for your answers.

### Define Each Vocabulary Word:

consumer- a living creature that eats organisms from a different population

ecosystem- a geographic area where plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and landscape, work together to form a bubble of life

energy pyramid- a graphical representation of the energy found within the trophic levels of an ecosystem

equilibrium- the current functions of the body are able to keep the body at a stable condition

food chain- the sequence of transfers of matter and energy in the form of food from organism to organism

population- a group of individuals of the same species living and interbreeding within a given area

predator- an organism that primarily obtains food by the killing and consuming of other organisms

prey- organisms that predators kill for food

Producer- organisms that make their own food

### Prior Knowledge Questions (Do these BEFORE using the Gizmo.)

The Food Chain Gizmo shows a **food chain** with hawks, snakes, rabbits, and grass. In this simulation, the hawks eat snakes, the snakes eat rabbits, and the rabbits eat grass.

1. **Producers** are organisms that do not need to eat other organisms to obtain energy.

A. Which organism is a producer in this food chain?	grass
B. Where does the producer get its energy?	The sun

2. **Consumers** must eat other organisms for energy. Which organisms are consumers in this food chain?

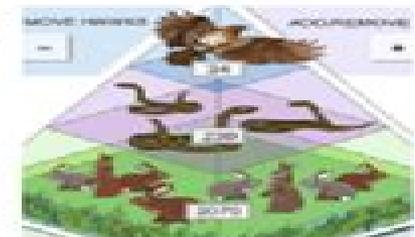
Hawks, snakes, and rabbits

### Gizmo Warm-up

The SIMULATION pane of the Gizmo shows the current **population**, or number, of each organism in the food chain.

1. What are the current populations of each organism?

Hawks:	42	Snakes:	278	Rabbits:	2566	Grass:	27300
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2. Select the BAR CHART tab, and click **Play** (▶). What do you notice about each population as time goes by?

The population of rabbits and grass increases.

If populations don't change very much over time, the ecosystem is in **equilibrium**.

3. Notice the populations decrease as you go from the bottom of the food chain to the top. Why do you think this is so?

There are more producers than consumers so it balances out.

# Explore Learning Gizmo Food Chain Answer Key

**AW Chickering**



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