

# Eating Habits of Animals



## Focus On



- Why Do Animals Need Food?
- What and How Animals Eat?

## Teacher's Aid

- Posters or charts on food habits of different animals.

## ▼ Here We Go...

Look at the pictures and answer the given questions :



1. Do different animals have different food habits?
2. Where do wild and pet animals get their food from?

## Why Do Animals Need Food?

We know that living things need food to live and grow. Food provides energy to carry out various body functions and activities of life. It keeps them healthy.

## What Do Animals Eat?

We also know that plants can make their own food but animals cannot.

Animals show a variety in their food and feeding habits. According to the

food they eat, animals are divided into three kinds – herbivores, carnivores and omnivores.

Animals like cows, zebras, goats, sheep and giraffes eat grass or small green plants. Such animals are called plant-eating animals or **herbivores**.



Sheep grazing



Giraffe eating leaves

Animals like tigers, foxes and leopards eat flesh of other animals. They are called flesh-eating animals or **carnivores**.



Lion eating flesh



Bear eating fish

Some carnivores eat only dead animals and are known as scavengers, such as hyena, vulture, jackal, etc.

Animals like crows, bears, rats, squirrels eat both plants and animals. They are called **omnivores**.

### Find Out

Name some carnivore animals and birds.

## How Do Animals Eat?

Eating habits of animals depend upon food they eat. Their body, mouth and teeth structure help them to eat their food.

### Herbivores

Herbivores eat grass, leaves and other tough plant material. They need to eat often during the day to get nutrition. Their mouths are developed for chewing and grinding their food. They have strong and broad back teeth for **chewing food**.



Cow chewing the cud



They have sharp and broad front teeth called **incisors** which help them to bite leaves, grass, etc. To break down plant materials into small pieces, they have flat teeth at the back called **molars**. These flat teeth help herbivores to chew their food easily.

Some herbivores first swallow their food without chewing it. This food is now called **cud**. Later, the cud is brought back to mouth and chewed again. This is called **chewing the cud** or **rumination**.

Rabbits, rats and squirrels have a set of very long and flat front teeth. They bite and repeatedly chew nuts, fruits and seeds with the help of these teeth. This is called **gnawing** the food.



Squirrel gnawing

All herbivores have their unique choice of plant matter. Pandas eat leaves of bamboos, koalas eat leaves of eucalyptus trees, honeybees feed on nectar and pollen from flowers while caterpillars eat leaves, etc.

### Fact Byte

- ❖ Cows have one stomach divided into four chambers. This allows them to break down tough matter that would initially be indigestible.



Panda eats bamboo leaves



Koala eating eucalyptus leaves



Honeybee feed on nectar of flowers

Black rhinoceroses eat a variety of fruits, branches and leaves. Elephants eat bark, leaves, small branches, roots, grasses and fruits. They suck up water into their trunk and then blow it into their mouth.

## Carnivores

Tigers, foxes, lions and wolves have sharp pointed and curved front teeth called **canines**. These canines help them to tear the flesh of their prey. They chew flesh and bones with flat premolars and molars present at the back of their mouth.



Strong jaw of a lion



Snake swallows whole food

Animals such as snakes and frogs do not have chewing teeth. They swallow their food whole. Snakes have special jaws which help their mouth to open wider to swallow the whole prey. A frog throws its sticky tongue out of its mouth and wraps it around the prey. Then the tongue snaps back and gulps the food down its throat.

Birds such as owls and hawks hunt with the help of their claws called **talons**. Eagles, hawks and kites also have curved beaks to tear apart their prey. Some carnivores attack their prey by paralysing or killing it with their venom, such as snakes, jelly fish, etc.

## Omnivores

Omnivores have many characteristics of both herbivores and carnivores. They have sharp teeth like carnivores and flat teeth like herbivores. Generally, the sharp teeth are present in the front of the mouth and allow them to tear or bite pieces of meat. The flat teeth are present behind the sharp teeth and allow them to chew their food.



Teeth of a Bear

## Some Other Ways Animals Eat

- ❖ Earthworms swallow soil which has parts of dead plants and animals in it. Dogs and cats lick milk and water with the help of their tongues. This is known as **lapping**. Bees and mosquitoes have hollow tubes through

which they suck their food into their mouth. Similarly, butterflies have long sucking tubes to suck nectar from flowers.



Mosquito



Earthworm

- ❖ Domestic animals are given food by their owners. Pet animals like cats and dogs are given milk and dog food. Cows, sheep and horses are given green grass and oil cakes. Hens are given corns.

### Let's Recall

Name the animal which :

1. gnaws fruits and seeds
2. chew the cud
3. have long sucking tube
4. swallows its food whole

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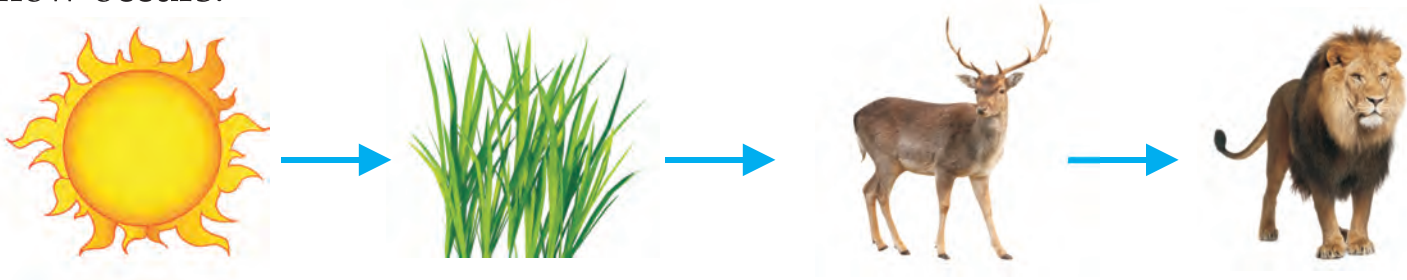
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### Food Chain

Energy is neither created nor destroyed but it can be passed from one organism to another. The food chain given below shows how this energy flow occurs.



Food Chain

A **food chain** starts with the primary source of energy, the Sun. Then comes green plants such as grass, that make their own food by photosynthesis. These are called **primary producers** or **autotrophs**.



Next in the chain are organisms that eat the autotrophs, such as the deer that eats grass. These are called herbivores or **primary consumers**. Then there comes next, an animal that eats a herbivore. They are called **secondary consumers**. Such as : A lion eats a deer.



### Your Turn

Try to find more food chains, that exist in nature. Share them with your classmates.

### FOLLOW IT

Efforts for conservation of plants and animals should be done. Each link of food chain is important.

### Flash On

- \* Animals can be of three types :
  - Herbivores – eat only plants.
  - Carnivores – eat only flesh of other animals. Scavengers are those carnivores animals which eat only dead animals.
  - Omnivores – eat both plants and flesh of animals.
- \* There are different ways in which various animals eat different types of foods.
- \* Food chain is a flow of energy from autotrophs to secondary consumers.

### Words to Know

<b>Molars</b>	: Large teeth at the back of the mouth
<b>Incisors</b>	: Sharp and broad front teeth
<b>Canines</b>	: Four large teeth in the front of a person's mouth
<b>Rumination</b>	: The act of bringing up food from the stomach and chewing it again
<b>Gnawing</b>	: Taking small bites on a food item with front teeth
<b>Lapping</b>	: Drinking milk with the tongue

### Exercise

#### A. Tick (✓) the correct answer :

1. They eat leaves.
  - (a) Caterpillars
  - (b) Lions
  - (c) Crows
2. Bees and mosquitos have :
  - (a) long sucking tubes
  - (b) hollow tubes
  - (c) incisors

3. They have curved beak to tear apart their prey.  
 (a) Pigeons  (b) Crows  (c) Hawks
4. They hunt with claws called talons.  
 (a) Rats  (b) Owls  (c) Cobras
5. They suck their food from the flowers through hollow tubes.  
 (a) Termites  (b) Bees  (c) Squirrels

**B. Fill in the blanks by choosing words from the help box :**

nectar, carnivores, scavengers, earthworms, chewing teeth

1. Animals such as snakes and frogs do not have \_\_\_\_\_ so they swallow their food whole.
2. Butterflies feed on \_\_\_\_\_ from flowers.
3. Lion, tiger, leopard and snake are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The carnivores that eat dead animals are called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ swallow soil which has parts of dead plants and animals in it.

**C. Write T for True and F for False statements :**

1. Carnivores are known as primary consumers.
2. Omnivores have many characteristics of both herbivores and carnivores.
3. Mosquitos have a long sticky tongue.
4. Koala eats eucalyptus leaves.
5. A food chain shows the flow of energy.

**D. Match the following :**

**Column A**

1. Plants
2. Frog
3. Squirrels
4. Termites
5. Chewing the cud

**Column B**

- (a) seeds and fruits
- (b) wood
- (c) primary producers
- (d) rumination
- (e) Sticky tongue

**E. Answer the following questions :**

1. What kind of teeth do herbivores have?
2. What do carnivores eat?
3. What do the terms 'gnawing' and 'chewing the cud' mean?

4. Name the links of the food chain.
5. How do frogs feed themselves?

**F. Hot Spots**

1. The links of a food chain are-plant, deer and tiger. Which is the carnivore in the chain?
2. 'P' makes its own food, 'Q' eats 'P' and 'R' eats 'Q'. In this regard which of the following is true?  
 (a) 'R' is herbivore    (b) 'Q' is a producer    (c) 'P' is a primary producer

**Practice Time**

**G. Visit a vet or find information about the things which we should not give to our pets and domestic animals. Also find out the ill effects of giving these things on the health of the animals.**

**H. Your turn**

Names of some animals are given in the table. Complete the table with the information.

	Body part which help animals to feed themselves	herbivore/ carnivore/ omnivore
Cow	_____	_____
Owl	_____	_____
Frog	_____	_____
Elephant	_____	_____
Tiger	_____	_____
Honeybee	_____	_____

**Have Fun**

❖ In the following word search grid, spot and circle the five terms. Clues are given below :

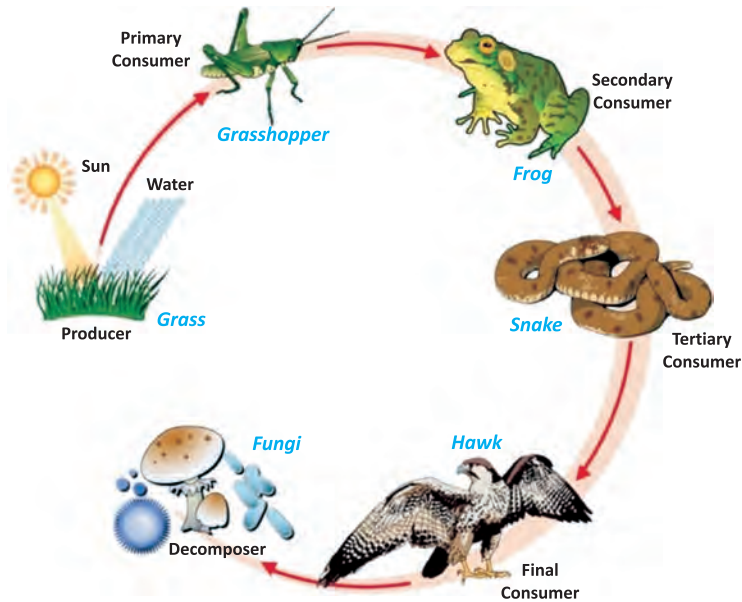
- This animal gnaws the food.
- Kind of animals that eat plants and its parts.
- Kind of animals that eat other smaller animals.
- Kind of animals that eat both plants and animals.
- Animals that does not have chewing teeth.



H	A	C	A	R	N	I	V	O	R	E	S
E	A	E	A	U	F	A	E	M	J	F	Q
R	N	E	M	N	S	D	M	N	A	R	U
B	D	P	E	I	Q	A	A	I	Y	E	I
I	K	A	L	L	U	R	T	V	S	E	R
V	I	K	T	S	I	P	T	O	H	Z	R
O	S	S	I	A	R	R	E	R	A	I	E
R	H	H	N	U	I	E	R	E	R	N	L
E	O	A	G	I	D	K	R	S	M	G	A
S	N	A	K	E	N	S	A	T	I	O	N

❖ **Activity For Students**

Sequence of a food-chain is given below. On the basis of what you have learnt in this chapter, describe the given food-chain in few words.




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