

This is the **Foundation Combined** version — Higher Tier and Separate-only content removed.

Food chains and webs show how energy flows through an ecosystem. Energy is progressively lost at each step.

- Food chain: producer → primary consumer → secondary consumer → apex predator
- ~10% energy transfers between levels (rest lost as heat, movement, waste)
- Food web: all interconnected food chains in an ecosystem — more realistic model
- Removing a species affects all others connected to it in the food web

Key Terms

Trophic level	A feeding level in a food chain
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■ **Exam Tip:** ~10% energy transfer is the key figure. Always explain WHY energy is lost: respiration (heat), movement, excretion. Not just "energy is lost".