*This is the **Higher Combined** version — includes Higher Tier content. Some Separate-only details are omitted.*

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

★ **HT** Pyramids of biomass always wider at base

★ **HT** Energy loss explains why: more land needed to produce meat than plant food

Key Terms

Trophic level	A feeding level in a food chain
Pyramid of biomass	Diagram of dry mass at each trophic level — always widest at base

■ **Exam Tip:** ~10% energy transfer is the key figure. Always explain WHY energy is lost: respiration (heat), movement, excretion. Not just "energy is lost".