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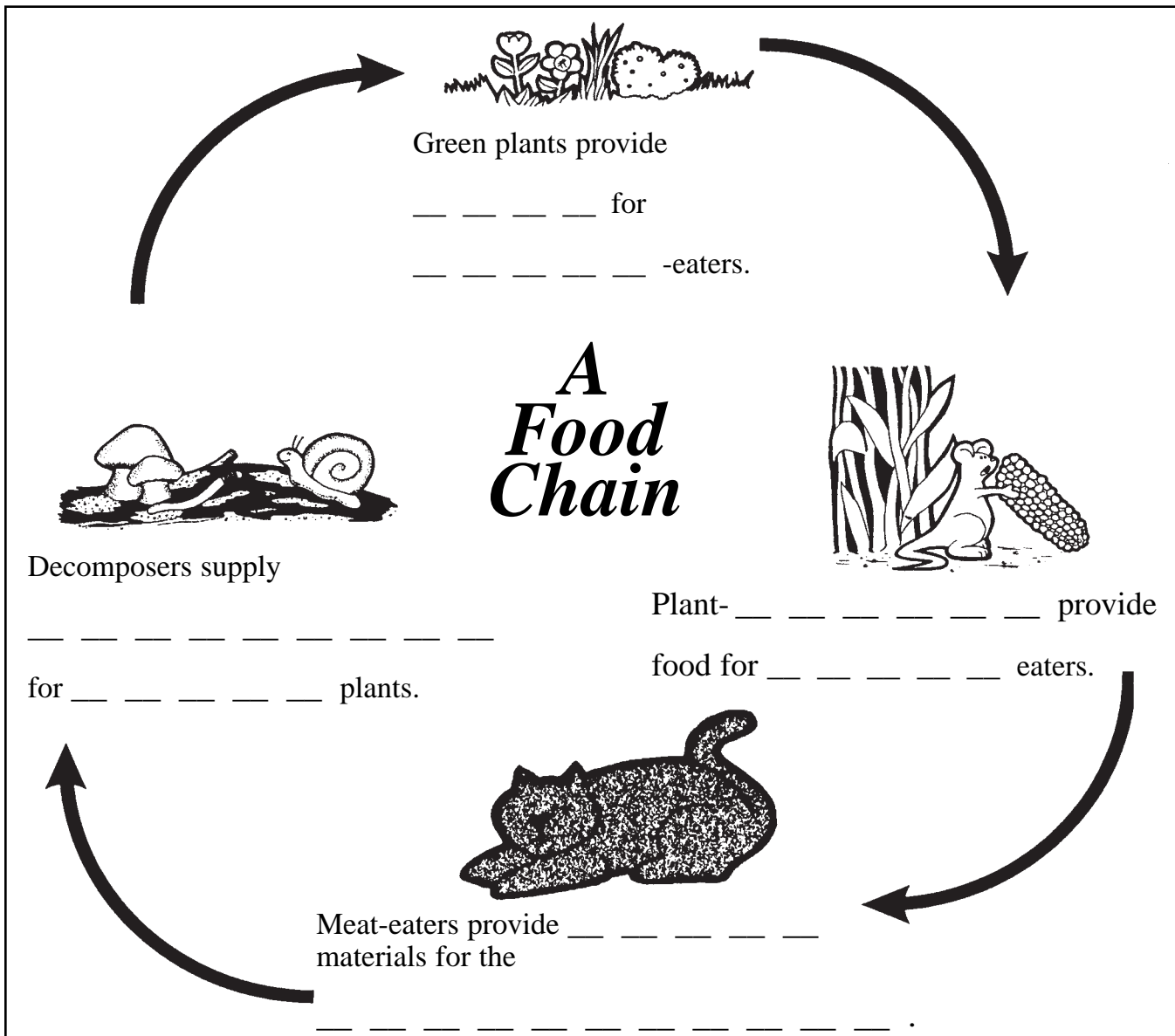
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# The Food Chain

Plants and animals have an interdependent relationship. Insects, fungi, and micro-organisms act as decomposers and provide **chemicals** for green plants. In turn, plants provide **food** for plant-eaters which provide food for **meat-eaters**. Plants, plant-eaters, and meat-eaters all supply **waste** materials for **decomposers**.

When this chain is broken, consequences can be serious. For example, if **green** plants were destroyed in great numbers by pesticides, deforestation, or forest fires, there might be no food for the **plant**-eaters. Then the plant-eaters would have to move away or they could face starvation.

Find out more about the food chain. Label the diagram with the **boldfaced** words from the paragraph above.



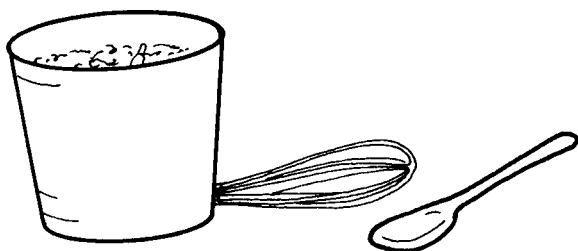
**Challenge:.** On the food chain write the names of five plants or animals that belong in each category.

# Making Your Own Recycled Paper

There are many different ways to make recycled paper. An easy method follows. Pairs can work together to make their own paper.

## Ingredients

- newspaper torn into small pieces
- water wire whisk
- plastic or metal bucket
- cornstarch
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup measuring cup
- piece of window screen to fit inside the bucket
- rolling pin
- wooden spoon
- blotting paper (or more newspaper)



## Directions

- Fill the bucket half full with the torn newspaper pieces.
- Pour enough water into the bucket to completely cover the paper; then add about two more inches of water.
- Allow the paper to soak overnight.
- Add one-fourth cup of cornstarch to the contents of the bucket.
- With the wire whisk, beat the mixture until thoroughly mixed.
- Bend the wire screen to fit inside the bucket.
- Scoop up some pulp onto the screen.
- Lift up the screen and hold over the bucket while spreading the mixture to an  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thickness over the screen (use the wooden spoon).
- Place the screen and wet pulp between two sheets of blotting paper (or newspaper).

- With the rolling pin, press out excess water. (Do this on a flat surface.)
- Remove the blotting paper (or newspaper).
- Allow to dry overnight or longer, then gently peel the recycled paper from the screen.

## Extensions

- Find out how paper is made. Visit a paper mill if possible.
- Research what people used before paper was invented. Find out when paper was invented.
- Learn how to do calligraphy. Special calligraphy pens and instruction booklets are available in art supply stores. Look for examples of calligraphy in books and magazines.