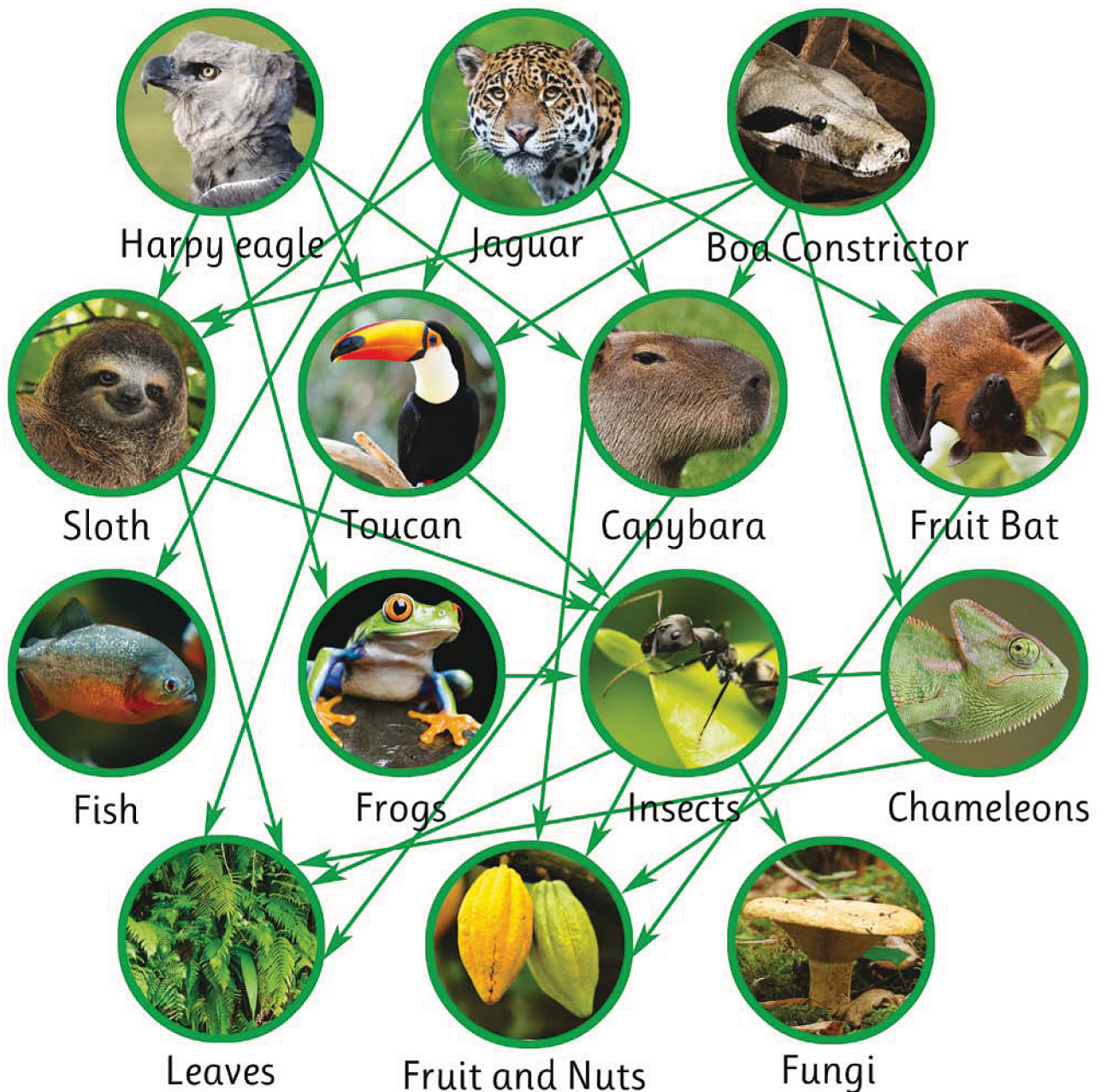


A **food web** describes who eats what in an ecosystem. It also shows how the Sun's **energy** moves through the ecosystem as animals eat. In a tropical rainforest, hundreds of kinds of shrubs and trees produce tasty leaves, seeds, and fruit. Fruit bats, sloths, insects, and other plant-eaters feed on them and, in turn, are eaten by carnivores. Harpy eagles, for example, regularly dine on sloths.



*Because animals use part of the energy they eat for living and store only a portion in their bodies, energy is lost as it moves up the food web. Food webs can support just a few top predators.*

# Rainforest Food Web



Energy from the Sun enters the ecosystem and helps plants grow. Animals eat the plants and get energy from them. Other animals eat the plant-eaters and the energy is passed along. As living things die and decay, **nutrients** return to the soil.