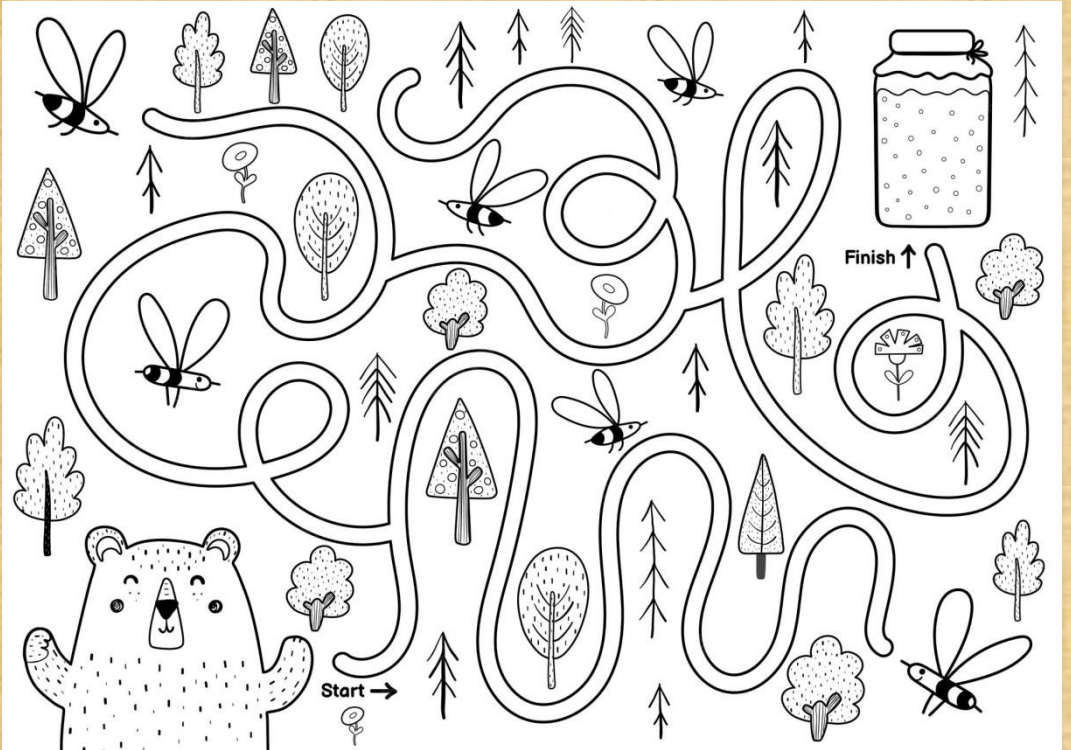


CHAPTER 04

What Do Animals Eat



Kids! Can you help the cute hungry bear find the way to honey?

Yes, after catching the honey what the hungry bear will do? Can you expect?

It eats or drinks it. Right!

Why?

Every living thing in the world needs a source of energy to survive. Plants get their energy from the sun and soil. Animals

need to eat food to get energy. In some cases, animals and plants depend on each other to survive. Many types of animals eat plants as part of their natural diet and they break down the plants in their stomachs. This is how animals get energy from food.

Like humans, there are lots of different types of things that animals eat. You might notice that people from different countries eat different things, but what you might not know is that there are certain types of nutrients, vitamins and minerals that all people need to survive.

Some animals only eat plants, like grass! Others eat animals and plants as part of their diet. Some only need meat to stay healthy.



Have you ever wondered how animals find food by walking from place to place?

What types of food do animals eat in order to grow and survive?

Do they solely consume plants or animals?

Animals need food. That is a fact right!

All living things need food to grow and to live. Animals are living things. They too need energy to move around and work. Food gives them all the energy they need. They need food to remain healthy.

Animals cannot prepare their own food, while plants can. Plants and plant products, as well as other animals are eaten or consumed in order to receive food that is stored in their bodies for later use.

You can see many animals in your surroundings. Let us make a list of what they usually eat and what they usually do to find their food.

S. No.	Animal/Bird	What they eat, drink	How they find food
1	Sparrow	Worms, grains...	Looking, seeing..
2	Dog	Bones, bread...	Sniffing...
3	Cat	Milk, meat,	Stalking..

		mice...	
4	Crow	Insects, worms, plant foods...	Looking..
5	Rats	Grains, nuts, fruits, vegetables...	Smelling..
6	Ants	Sugar, sweets...	Chemosense to detect...
7	Lizards	Insects, small animals....	Visually through movement...
8	Cows & buffaloes	Grass, grains..	Using tongue to grasp
9	Donkeys	Grass, shrubs, fruits, vegetables...	By browsing in natural habitat
10	Monkeys	Fruits, seeds, insects...	Use hands to grip trees and hold onto their food.

Hence, animals have their own ways of gathering and taking in food.

To find food:

Plants and animals are the main sources of food in our surroundings. Like us, animals also depend on these sources of food. Every animal has its own style of getting food. They track down, collect, grab or hunt and then use various tools to finally take food into the mouth.

Locate food:

Most animals feed regularly but, first, they must locate food. To do this, they use a wide range of senses - smell, sight, hearing, taste and touch. Some animals rely more on one sense than the other and it can therefore be highly developed in them.

Animals use some senses more strongly than others to find their food. For example, dogs use the sense of smell while vultures use vision. Bats depend more on hearing while some reptiles, on taste.

Collect food:

Finding food is one thing, but collecting or capturing it is quite another. Many animals have specialized body parts such

as mouthparts, hands or feet that help them collect their food most efficiently.

Sources of Food for Animals:

Animals obtain food from their surroundings. Different animals eat different kinds of food. They eat either plants or plant-eating animals. Some animals like goat and deer eat plant food like grass and leaves directly. Some other animals like tiger and lion eat the flesh of these plant-eating animals. This shows that even flesh-eating animals depend indirectly on plants for their food.



We all need food to survive, energy and growth. Plants are called the producers because they prepare their own food through the process of photosynthesis. Most animals depend

on plants for their food. The animals which feed on plants are eaten by another organism for their survival, energy and growth. Few organisms depend on both plants and animals for their food. Few animals feed on insects, blood, fruits, dead and decayed organisms.

Names of Animals	Food they eat
Cow	Grass
Tiger	Goats, deer, cows etc
Crow	Insects, plant & animal foods
Goat	Grass, weeds
Snakes	Worms, termites, fish, rats etc

Autotrophic nutrition is that mode of nutrition in which an organism makes (or synthesizes) its own food from simple inorganic materials with the help of sunlight. Organisms that make their own food are called **autotrophs** or **producers**.

Green plants, algae, and some bacteria are examples of autotrophs.

Heterotrophic nutrition is that mode of nutrition in which an organism cannot make (or synthesize) its own food from

simple inorganic materials like carbon dioxide and water and depends on other organisms for its food.

A heterotrophic organism is a consumer which derives its nutrition from other organisms.

