

Chapter 15

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Food Chain:

- It is defined as linear sequence of organisms where one organism depend upon another organism for food.
- In food chain, energy flow is in the form of food.
- Here energy flow is unidirectional.
- Each step in the food chain forms a trophic level.

First trophic level (T_1) = Producers

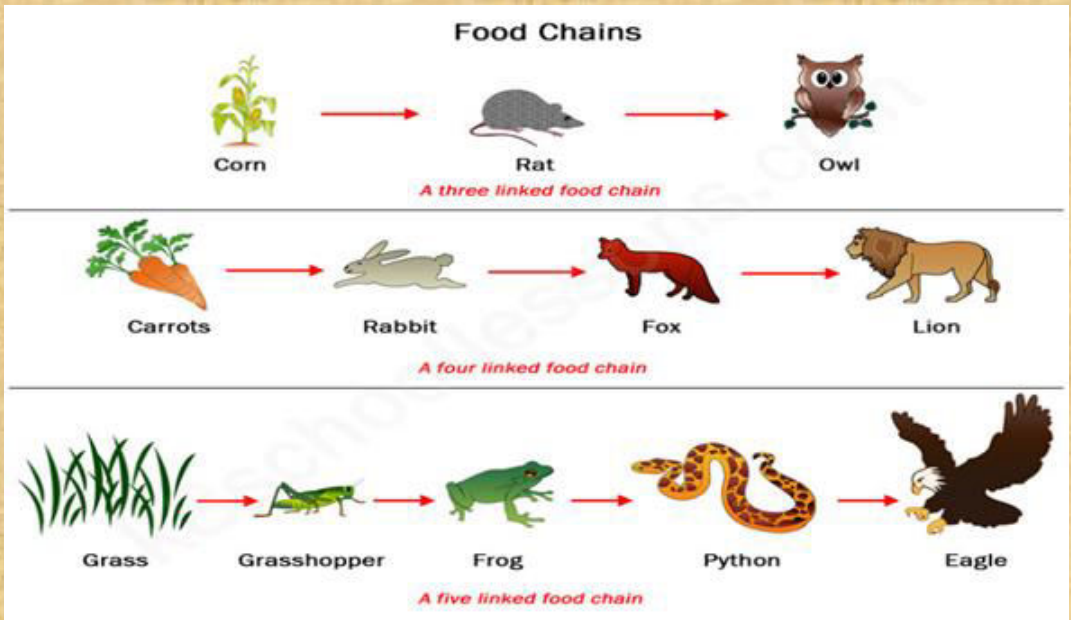
Second trophic level (T_2) = Herbivores/Primary consumers

Third trophic level (T_3) = Small carnivores/Secondary consumers

- Shorter food chains provide greater energy.
- Longer food chains provide less energy.

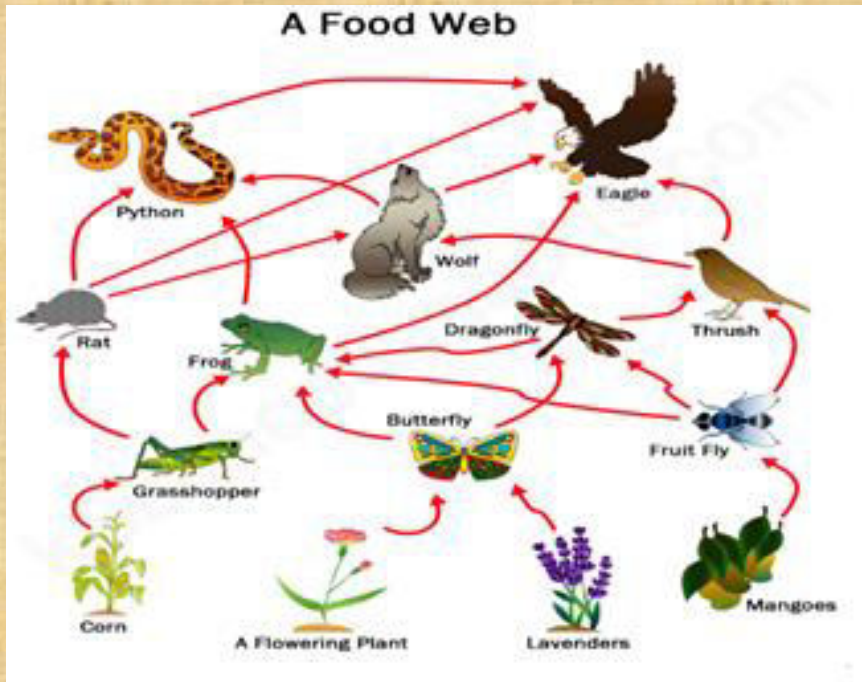
10th Percent Law:

- Proposed by Raymond Lindeman.
- It states that only 10% of energy is only transferred. from one trophic level to another trophic level.
- Remaining 90% of energy will be used by the present trophic levels in different process.



Food Web:

- In big ecosystem many food chains are interlinked together on different trophic level to form food web.
- In food web transfer of energy in the form of food is unidirectional but from many different alternative pathways.
- In food web, members of particular trophic level obtain their food according to their choice and taste. But that type of facility is not present in food chain; It means they have more than one option (or) alternate in getting the food.



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