



Unit 1 Lesson 1: Everybody is Somebody's Lunch

Focusing on Food Webs

Handout 2 Answer Key

Name _____

1. A farmer applies a pesticide (chemical that kills insects) to a field of peppers. The pesticide kills all of the aphids that feed on the peppers. Describe how this pesticide might affect the pepper, aphid, ladybug, and bird populations around the farm area.

The pesticide could not only kill the aphids, the targeted population, but also the ladybugs that are their natural predators. Without repeated applications of pesticides, the aphids will reappear and attack the peppers. Without the ladybugs, the supply of food for area birds would decrease. This would affect the ability of the bird populations to reproduce and survive.

2. If you were a part of a food energy pyramid, which layer would you want to be a part of? Why?

I would want to be at the top level of the pyramid where the omnivores are. They eat both plants and animals and have no predators that prey on them.

3. Explain why you would want to be part of a food web and not a food chain.

There would be more chances to find food in a food web and more choices of foods to eat. The chance of survival is better in a food web, especially if a species that a creature relies on for food becomes threatened or extinct.

4. Why are there more species of plants and animals at the lower levels of the energy pyramid?

There are more species at the lower levels because these creatures reproduce in greater numbers in order to provide food for so many other creatures and still be able to survive.