

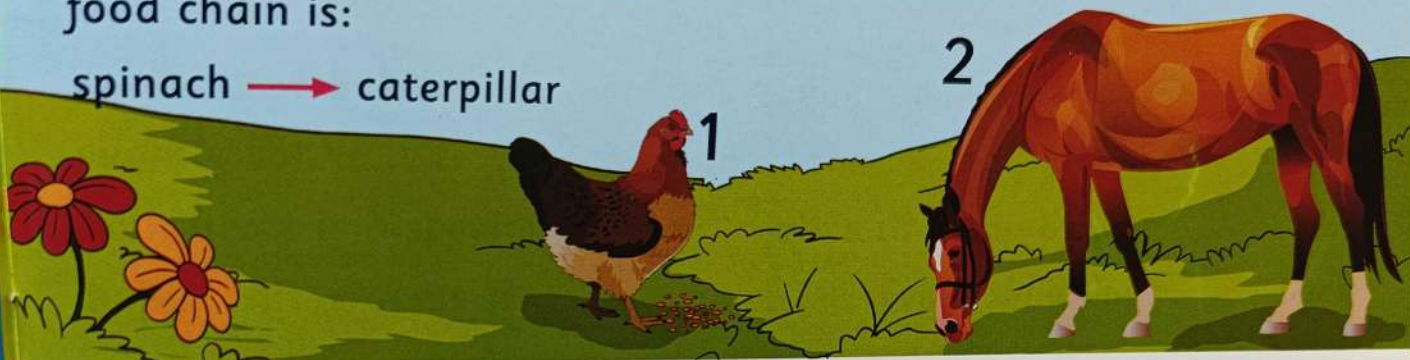
* 2.1. Food chains

We can depict a feeding **relationship** using a food chain. A food chain describes the feeding relationship between a plant and an animal. One food chain is:

spinach → caterpillar

2

1



The arrow means 'is eaten by'. So this food chain tells us that **spinach** is eaten by the **caterpillar**.

Look at food chains 1 and 2. Write each one in words with an **arrow**.

Producers and consumers

Plants are **unique** because they **produce** their own food. For this reason, we call a plant a **producer**. Animals and humans cannot make their own food. They eat or **consume** plants, so an animal is called a **consumer**.

Some animals eat **mainly plants**. Some animals eat other animals. An animal that eats other animals is called a **predator**. The animal that it **kills** and eats are its **prey**. Look at these examples.



The owl is a predator and his prey is the mouse.



A frog is a predator because it eats insects. The frog has to be quick – it shoots out its sticky tongue to catch its prey.