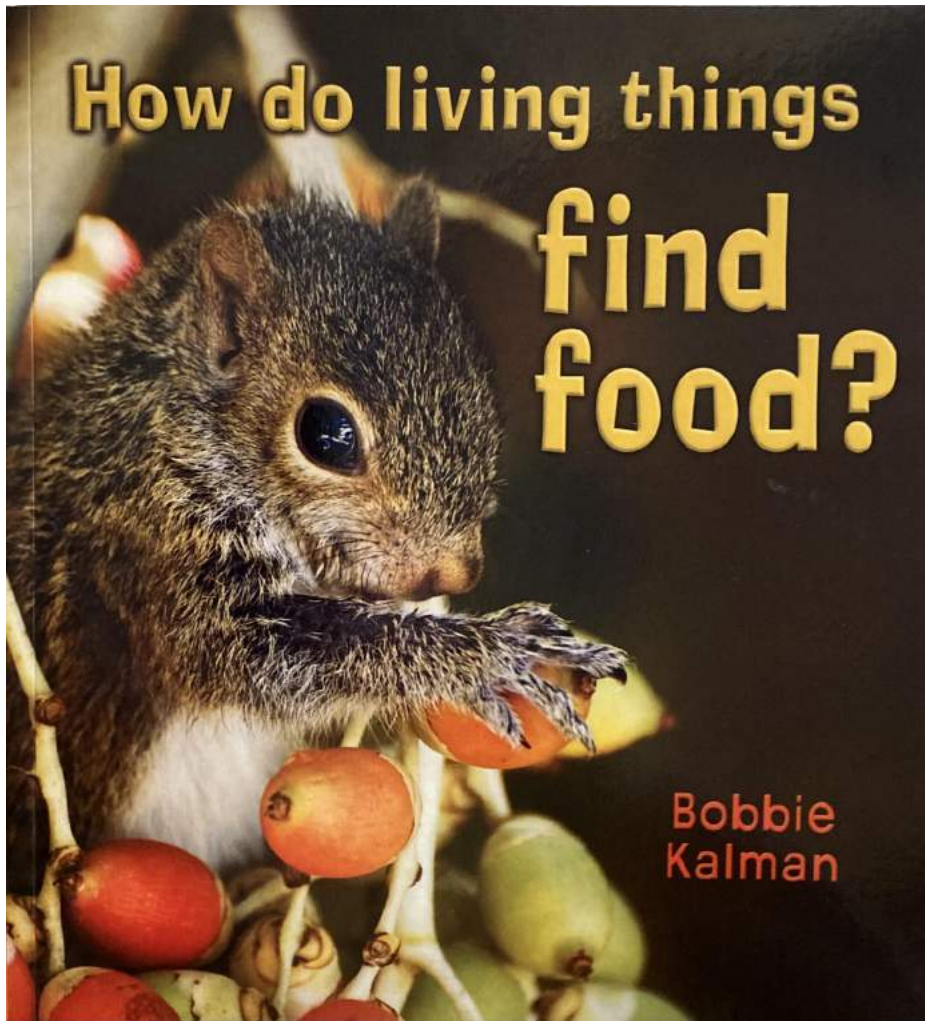


How do living things

find
food?

Bobbie
Kalman



How do living things find food?



Bobbie Kalman

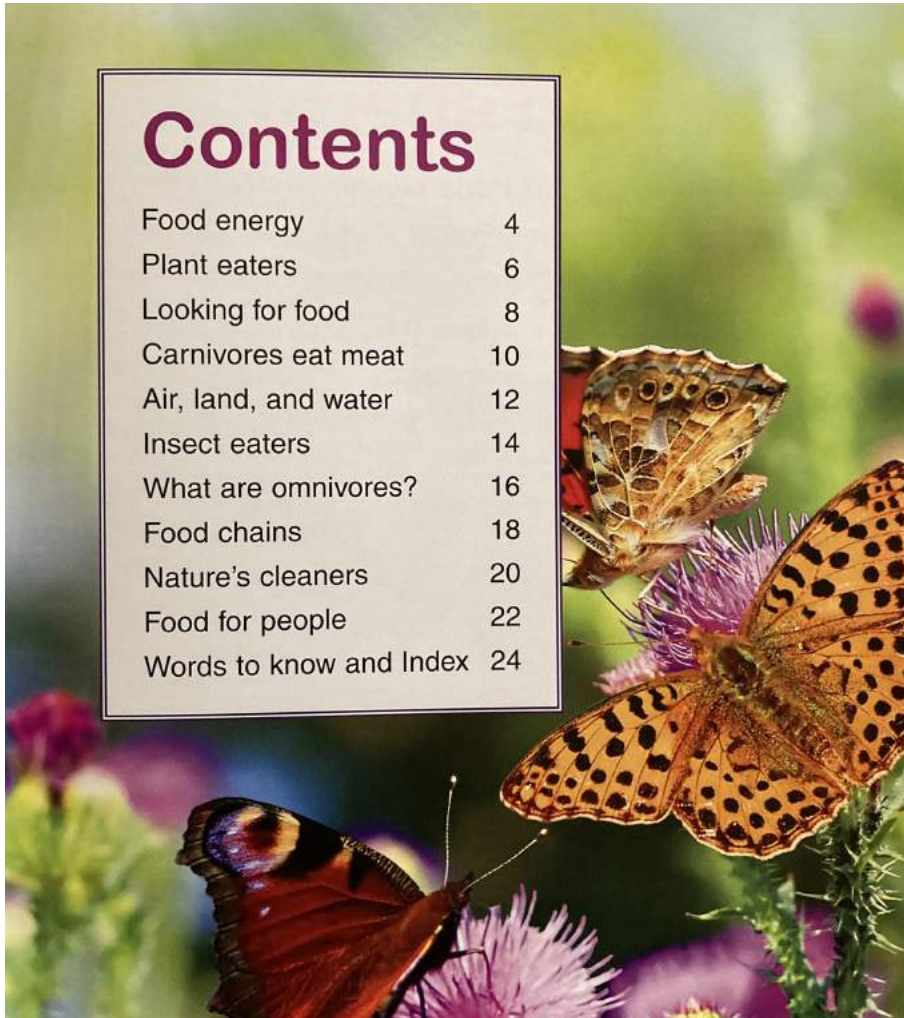


Crabtree Publishing Company

www.crabtreebooks.com

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Food energy | 4 |
| Plant eaters | 6 |
| Looking for food | 8 |
| Carnivores eat meat | 10 |
| Air, land, and water | 12 |
| Insect eaters | 14 |
| What are omnivores? | 16 |
| Food chains | 18 |
| Nature's cleaners | 20 |
| Food for people | 22 |
| Words to know and Index | 24 |



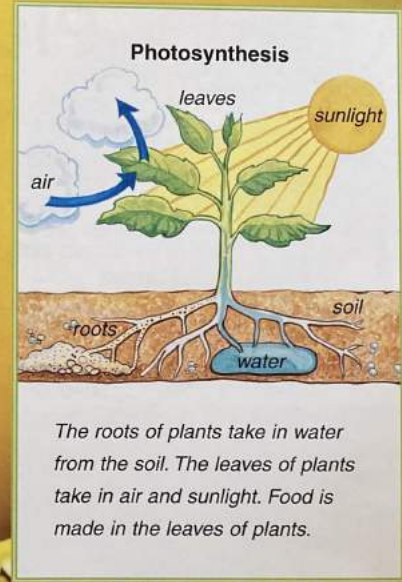
Food energy

What is a **living thing**? Plants are living things. Animals are living things. People are living things. Living things grow and change. To stay alive, living things need air, water, and food. Food gives living things the **energy** they need. Living things need energy to move and grow. They cannot do anything without energy.



We could not stay alive for very long without food. We need different kinds of food.

Energy comes from the sun. Plants catch the sun's energy and use it to make food. They make food from sunlight, air, and water. Making food using sunlight is called **photosynthesis**.





Plant eaters

The energy of sunlight is stored in plants. When animals or people eat plants, they get the energy of the sun, too. The sun's energy is passed along to the plant eaters. Animals that eat mainly plants are called **herbivores**.



This groundhog has found some spring flowers to eat.

Different herbivores eat different parts of plants. Some eat grasses and leaves. Some eat fruit, nuts, seeds, flowers, and even wood. Some drink **nectar**. Nectar is a sweet liquid found in flowers.



This mouse found grass seeds to eat.



Squirrels like nuts, seeds, and fruit.



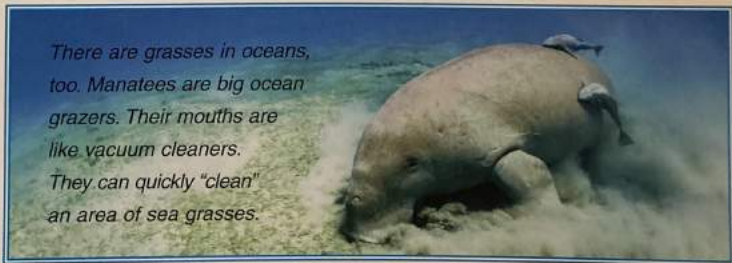
This bee is drinking nectar from a flower.

Looking for food

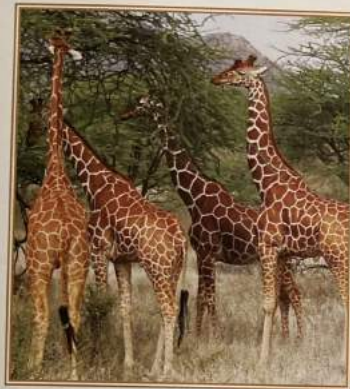


This pony is a grazer. It has the right kind of teeth and stomach for eating grasses.

Many herbivores are **grazers**. Grazers eat grass and other plants that grow close to the ground. Horses are grazers. They have special stomachs that can break down the grasses they eat. Some herbivores are **browsers**. Browsers eat the leaves of bushes and trees.



There are grasses in oceans, too. Manatees are big ocean grazers. Their mouths are like vacuum cleaners. They can quickly "clean" an area of sea grasses.



Giraffes are browsers with long necks. They can reach the leaves of tall trees.

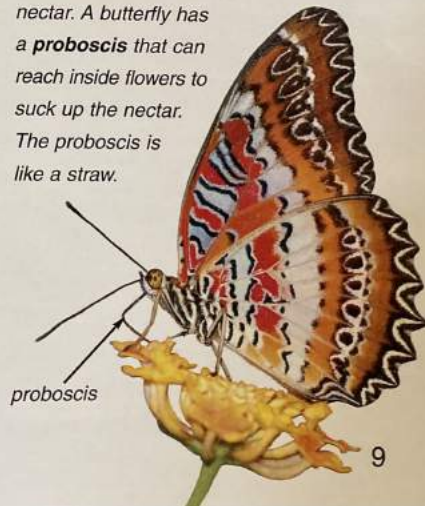


Many herbivores, such as these lemurs, like to eat fruit.



Caterpillars eat a lot of leaves before they become butterflies!

Butterflies drink flower nectar. A butterfly has a **proboscis** that can reach inside flowers to suck up the nectar. The proboscis is like a straw.



proboscis

Carnivores eat meat

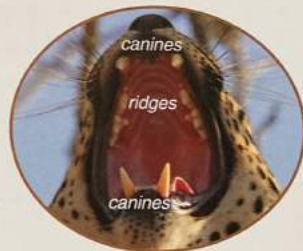


Animals that eat other animals are called **carnivores**. “Carnivore” means “meat eater.” Most carnivores are **predators**. Predators hunt the animals they eat. The animals that predators hunt are called **prey**.



Wolves are predators that hunt in groups called packs. This wolf pack has hunted a deer.

Cats, such as lions, tigers, and leopards, are big carnivores. They have sharp teeth called **canines** for grabbing their prey. The **ridges** on the roof of a cat's mouth help hold its prey.



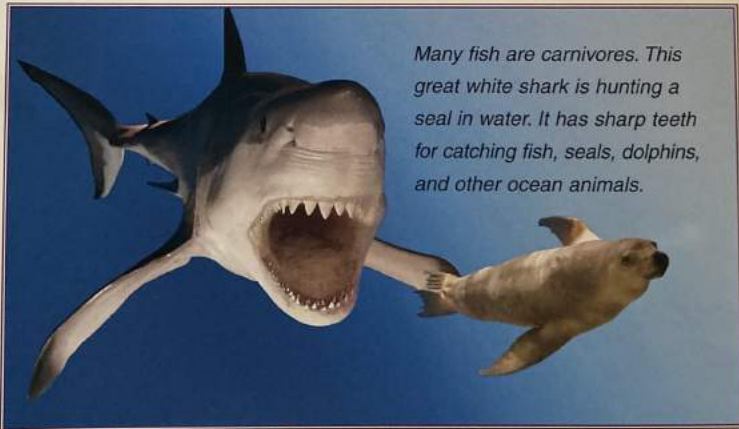
This leopard is dragging its prey up into a tree so other carnivores will not steal it.

Air, land, and water

Predators hunt in the air, on land, and in water. Some birds use their beaks for catching prey. Other birds have sharp **talons**, or claws, for grabbing their prey.



This hawk has grabbed a fish out of water with its talons.



Many fish are carnivores. This great white shark is hunting a seal in water. It has sharp teeth for catching fish, seals, dolphins, and other ocean animals.



This heron has found a rat to eat. It holds the rat in its long beak.



Alligators catch fish in water. On land, they can hunt animals as big as deer. They can run fast.



*Some snakes use **venom**, or poison, to stop their prey from moving.*

Insect eaters



This sundew plant has trapped an insect with its sticky leaves.

Spiders eat flies, moths, and other insects.

This jumping spider has jumped on a fly to eat.



Many spiders weave webs for catching their prey.



This chameleon shot out its long, sticky tongue to catch a fly. Frogs also catch insects this way.



Anteaters use their sharp claws to dig up ant nests. They eat other insects, too. Their long, sticky tongues grab the insects.

(right) Praying mantises pretend to be leaves, branches, and flowers so their prey will not see them. What does this mantis look like?



What are omnivores?

Omnivores are animals that eat both plants and other animals. Their bodies can live on one or both kinds of foods. Skunks, raccoons, chipmunks, foxes, and many bears are omnivores.

Most birds are omnivores. This blue jay eats nuts, seeds, and other plant foods, but it also eats insects and worms.



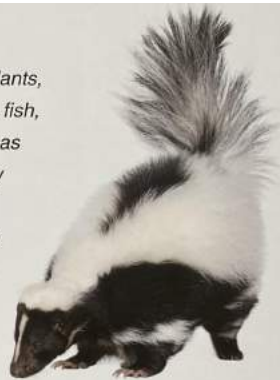
Chipmunks eat any food they find. They stuff their cheeks with food.



Black bears eat mainly plants, but they also eat insects, fish, and even animals as big as deer or moose. This baby bear may find nuts or insects to eat in this tree.



grub



Skunks eat plants, but they also eat insects, frogs, birds, and eggs. They love grubs!



Opossums eat any foods they find—even garbage.



Foxes are carnivores that will eat plants if they cannot find animals to hunt.

Food chains

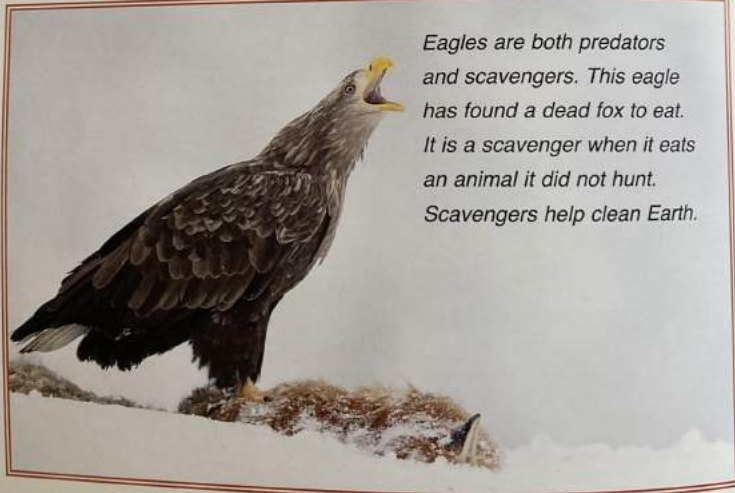
Energy comes from the sun and is used by plants to make food. The sun's energy is passed along in **food chains**.

The food chain on the next page is made up of a sunflower, a squirrel, and a fox. They all have the sun's energy inside them.



Nature's cleaners

When living things die, they still have energy and **nutrients** in their bodies. Nutrients are the parts of food that keep our bodies healthy. Predators hunt animals, eat some of the meat, and then leave the rest behind. Other animals get the nutrients from the leftovers. Animals that eat the leftovers of dead animals are called **scavengers**.



Eagles are both predators and scavengers. This eagle has found a dead fox to eat. It is a scavenger when it eats an animal it did not hunt. Scavengers help clean Earth.



Earthworms eat dead plants and also dig tunnels. Air comes into the soil through the tunnels. Air makes the soil better.



This ant has found a dead fly to eat. It is cleaning the forest when it eats dead animals.

*Mushrooms are not plants. They are living things called **fungi**. Fungi are the only cleaners that can break down dead trees. Mushrooms also clean the soil.*



Food for people

How do people find food? Most people buy food in **supermarkets**. Farmers grow vegetables and fruits and raise animals, such as chickens. The foods are then taken to supermarkets in trucks.



The boy below is going to eat a pizza. Pizza is made with flour and tomatoes, which come from plants. It also has cheese and meat, which come from animals.



Some people do not eat meat, but most people eat every kind of food. They eat fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, cheese, fish, and mushrooms. Name ten kinds of foods in the picture below that you eat.



Words to know and Index



carnivores
pages 10–15, 17



food chains
pages 18–19



herbivores
pages 6–9



insectivores
pages 14–15



omnivores
pages 16–17



people
pages 4, 6,
22–23



plants
pages 4, 5,
6–7, 8, 14, 16,
17, 18, 21, 22



predators
pages 10,
12, 20



prey
pages 10, 11,
12, 13, 14, 15



scavengers
page 20

Other index words

browsers pages
8, 9

energy pages 4,
5, 6, 18, 19, 20

fungi page 21

grazers page 8

hunting pages 10,
12, 13, 17, 20

insects pages 14,
15, 16, 17

mushrooms pages
21, 23

nutrients page 20

photosynthesis
page 5