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Science

Science

Life Science

# Links in the Food Chain

by Kim Borland



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Author's Purpose</li><li>• Cause and Effect</li><li>• Preview</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labels</li><li>• Diagrams</li></ul>

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Living things are everywhere! Plants are living things. Animals are living things. You are a living thing too.

Living things require food. Food gives living things the energy they need to live and grow.

How many living things can you name?  
Which of these live on land?  
Which ones live in water?

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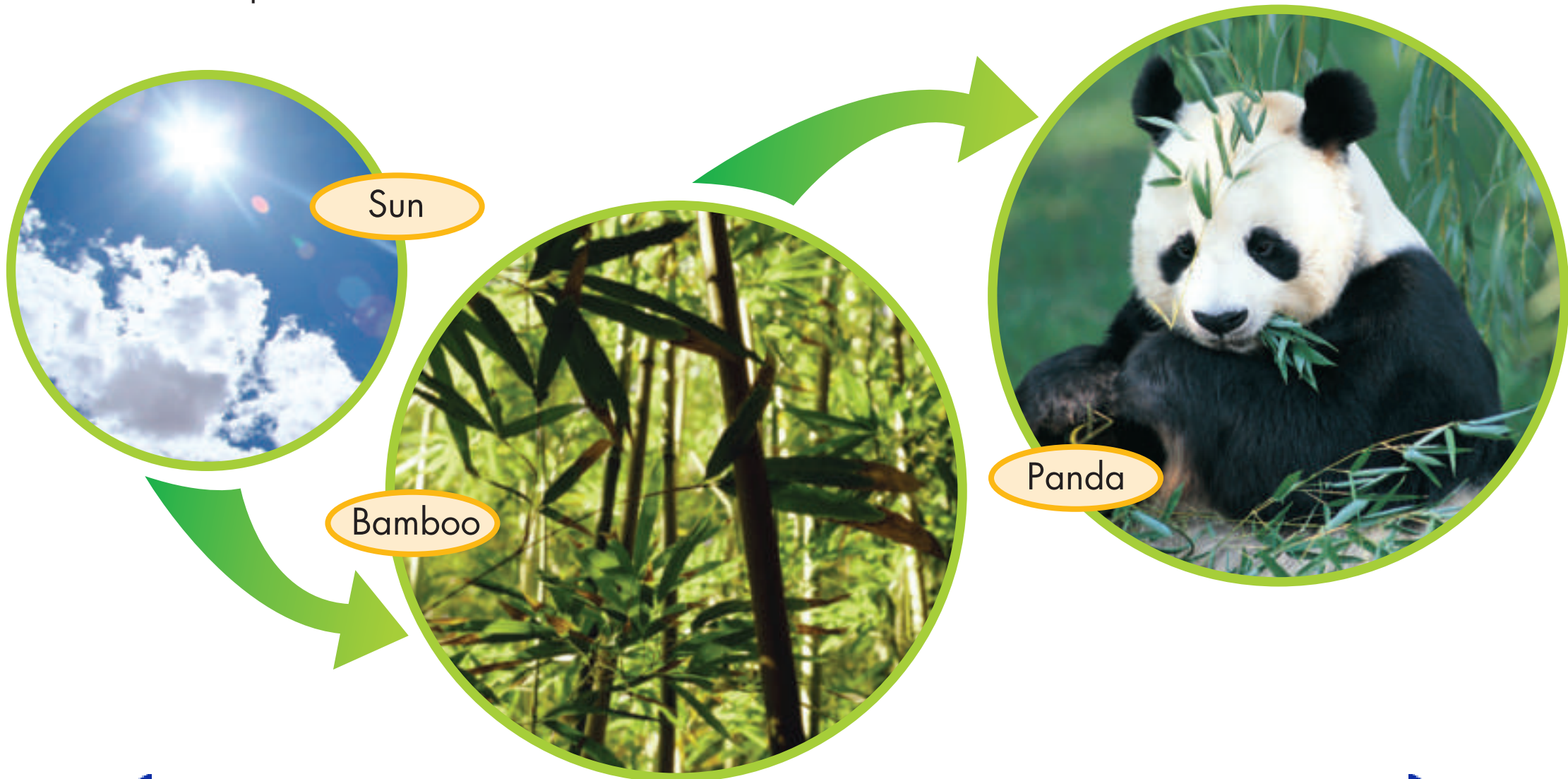


Many living things eat other living things. This makes a food chain. Each living thing is a link in the food chain.

Food chains are found in every environment. They are all alike in one important way. Food chains begin with the sun and plants.



Did you know that most plants make their own food? It's true! They use the energy of the sun to make their food. When an animal eats the plant's leaves, energy is passed on. The sun's energy goes to the plant and then to the animal.

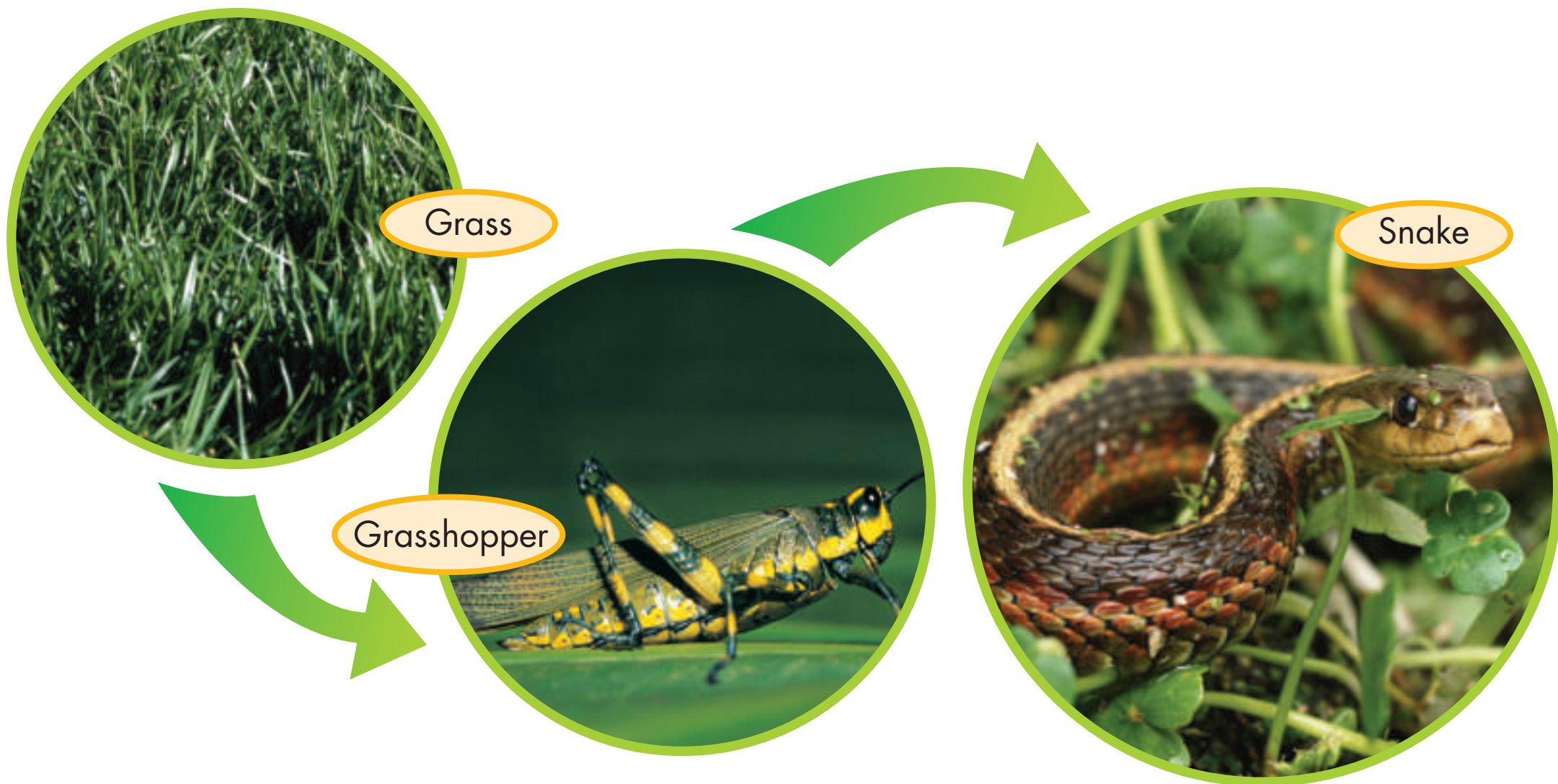




Let's take a close look at a forest. In a forest there are many food chains. The plants and animals can be part of more than one food chain. The plants and animals need each other to live.



Some grasshoppers eat grass. A snake eats grasshoppers. The grass, the grasshopper, and the snake are linked. They form a food chain. Each plant and animal is a link in that chain.





A change in one part of the food chain causes a change in the other parts. What if there were no more grasshoppers?

The grasshoppers would not eat the grass. The grass might thrive, but the snakes would not have food. They could die if there was not enough to eat.



Food is a requirement of most living things. All living things are linked to other living things in food chains. As living things eat and are eaten, food chains go on. Food chains can change as environments change.





## Now Try This

### Living Things Poster

You know that living things are all around. Now it's your turn to share what you know about these living things!



### Here's How to Do It!

1. Find a large sheet of white construction paper. Get some crayons too.
2. Write *Living Things* across the top of your paper.
3. Draw pictures of plants and animals that you know about. (Hint: They can be plants and animals that live on land or in water!)
4. Write the name of each plant or animal under its picture.
5. Share your drawings with your class.





# Think and Share

Read Together

1. Why did the writer tell about the food chain before she talked about what could happen if the food chain changes?
2. What did you do to get ready to read this book? Did it help you understand it better?
3. Page 8 says, "The grass might thrive." What other words can you think of that mean the same as *thrive*?
4. How is the diagram on page 8 the same as the diagram on pages 6 and 7? How is it different? What does this difference tell you about the food chain? Fill in a chart like this one.

