

Grade 8 Natural Science Worksheet

Food chains and food webs

A baboon was seen lifting stones and looking for food in a patch of grass. The baboon found some beetles and ate them. Every so often, the baboon would scratch himself, because he had a large number of fleas on his body.

1. Draw a food chain which clearly illustrates the feeding relationships described above. [4]
2. Draw a pyramid of numbers to illustrate the description above. [4]
3. What is a pyramid of numbers? Comment on the shape of this pyramid of numbers in your answer. [3]
4. Draw a food web which illustrates a feeding relationship between at least ten organisms. Include the four organisms in the food chain you drew in (1). [10]
5. Choose one organism in the food web you drew in (4) and draw a circle around this organism. Imagine that this organism was eliminated (removed) completely from the feeding relationship. What impact would this have on the rest of the food web? Explain fully. [4]

[25marks]

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	4	Grass → Beetle → Baboon → Flea
2	4	<pre> graph TD fleas[fleas] --- baboon[baboon] baboon --- beetles[beetles] beetles --- grass[grass] </pre>
3	3	A pyramid of numbers shows the relative numbers of organisms ✓ in a particular food chain; ✓ usually a pyramid has the smallest portion on top, this one does not. ✓
4	10	Learner responses will differ. Mark according to the web they produce. Check that arrows flow in the correct direction (in the direction of energy flow) and check that links are realistic. One mark per organism correctly inserted in the web.
5	4	Learner answers will vary, but they must be able to recognise the significance and importance of the organism in the ecosystem. Answers must be realistic and insightful.