

Ecosystems

1. Interdependence

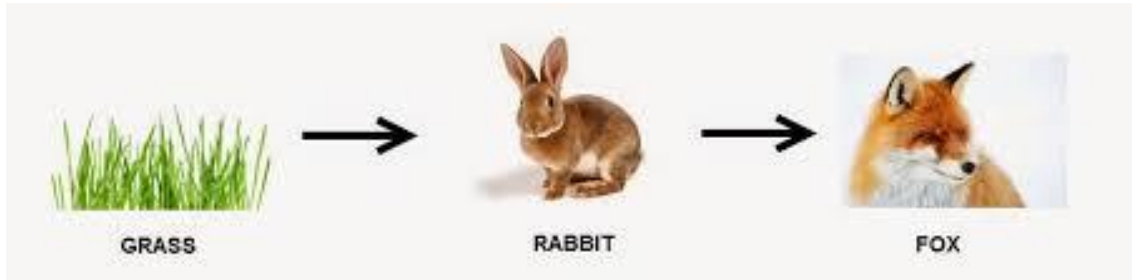
CONCEPT 1

FOOD CHAINS AND FOOD WEBS

NOTES

Organisms in a food chain are dependent on each other.

e.g.



In this simple food chain, grass is eaten by rabbits and rabbits are eaten by foxes. The grass captures energy from sunlight to photosynthesize and make glucose. The glucose provides the energy for the plant to grow. When the rabbit eats the grass, some of the energy left in the grass is transferred to the rabbit. The rabbit uses some of the energy for movement and keeping warm. The energy used in growth is transferred to the fox when it eats the rabbit.

Most animals eat many different things and are therefore involved in many different food chains. These food chains can be linked together to form a food web. Food webs can be complex. The trophic level that an organism occupies can vary depending on which food chain they appear in in the food web.

Disruption of food chains can occur when organisms are removed or introduced through human activity or disease. The knock on effects can change the populations of many organisms within the food web.

