

Animals and their Food

Let's Begin



Do you have a pet at home? What do you think pets eat? Do all animals eat the same kind of food?

All living things need food. Food gives living things the energy they need to live. Plants prepare their own food. But animals cannot make their own food. Now let us learn about the food and the feeding habits of animals. Animals depend on plants and other animals for their food. Based on their **feeding habits**, animals can be divided into three groups.



kingfisher

HERBIVORES

Some animals eat only plants—grass, leaves, seeds, vegetables, fruits, roots, nuts and shoots. They do not eat the flesh of other animals. These animals are called herbivorous animals or **herbivores**. ('Herbivore' means 'plant eater'.) Elephants, cows, horses, rabbits, giraffes, zebras, deer and sheep are all herbivores.



rhinoceros



kangaroo



deer

How Herbivores Eat

Herbivores have sharp and flat front teeth for cutting up plant material. They also have broad teeth at the back for chewing and grinding.

Animals like cows and goats swallow their food without chewing it. Later, they bring back the swallowed food into their mouth and chew it with their strong back teeth. This is called **chewing the cud**. These animals are called **ruminants**.



Some animals like the squirrel and the rat have sharp front teeth. This helps them crack and gnaw nuts and grains. These animals are called **rodents**.

CARNIVORES

Some animals hunt and eat other animals. Meat-eating animals are called **carnivores**. Lions, tigers, cats, snakes, polar bears, foxes, wolves, hyenas and jackals are all carnivorous animals.

How Carnivores Eat

Meat-eating animals have four long, pointed, curved **canine** teeth to tear flesh. They also have broad, flat back teeth to chew the flesh. They tear the flesh, chew it and then swallow it bit by bit.



lions



stork



wolf

Snakes and lizards do not chew but swallow their food whole.

Frogs and lizards have long, sticky tongues which help them catch their food easily. Birds have no teeth. They use their beaks to feed. Waterbirds such as cranes and herons have long, thin beaks to help them catch fish. Meat-eating birds like vultures have strong, hook-like beaks.



eagle

OMNIVORES

Some animals eat both plants and animals. They are called **omnivores**. The bear, hen, many kinds of fish, crow and rat are all omnivores. Humans are also omnivores. They eat different parts of plants. They also eat meat, eggs and fish.



FOOD CHAINS

Living things form a **food chain** based on their eating habits. Let us see how a food chain is formed.

Plants like grass make their own food. They use the energy from sunlight to make food. Herbivores like the zebra eats grass and small plants. Lions and other carnivores eat herbivores.

This can be shown as a food chain.



grass



zebra



lion

FEEDING HABITS OF OTHER ANIMALS

Have you seen a butterfly hovering over a flower? It has a long, coiled tube as a mouthpart. It uses this to suck nectar from the flower. The mosquito and leech live on blood sucked from the bodies of other animals. The earthworm lives in the soil. Its food is the dead and decaying plants and animals found in the soil. The earthworm just swallows the soil!



butterfly



mosquito

An elephant has a long trunk which it uses to drink water. It uses it like a straw to suck water and then empties it into its mouth. The trunk also helps it to pull chunks of grass from the ground or break branches from trees. It takes a bath too with the help of its trunk!



an elephant drinking water

CARE OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

We use domestic animals like bulls, horses, cows and camels to do work for us. It is important for us to take good care of these animals. Their shelters should be kept clean and airy at all times. Plenty of nutritious food and clean water must be provided. They must also be given vaccinations against various diseases and if any animal is sick it should be given proper medical treatment.

Let's Sum Up

- ❖ Animals depend on plants and other animals for their food.
- ❖ Animals can be divided into three groups based on their feeding habits.
- ❖ Herbivorous animals eat only plants.
- ❖ Carnivorous animals eat other animals.
- ❖ Omnivorous animals eat both plants and other animals.
- ❖ A food chain shows where a plant or animal gets its food from. All food chains begin with plants.

Let's Understand

A. Choose the correct answers.

- Herbivores have _____ .
A. flat and sharp front teeth B. curved and pointed teeth
C. flat and broad back teeth
a. A and B b. B and C c. A and C
- _____ have long canine teeth to tear flesh.
a. Herbivores b. Carnivores c. Ruminants
- Omnivores eat _____ .
a. only plants b. only other animals c. both plants and other animals
- Human beings are _____ .
a. herbivores b. carnivores c. omnivores
- All food chains start with _____ .
a. plants b. herbivores c. carnivores

B. Circle the odd one in each set.

- cheetah, wolf, goat, fox
- grass, spinach, lotus, worm
- crow, human, butterfly, brown bear
- deer, cow, mongoose, sheep

C. Answer the questions.

1. Why do living things need food?
2. Why are cows called cud-chewing animals?
3. What is the difference in the structure of the teeth of herbivores and carnivores?
4. What is a food chain? Give one example of a food chain.
5. What kind of food should we give animals like elephants, bulls or horses? Why?

Let's Think

Herbivores depend on plants for their food and carnivores depend on herbivores. What do you think will happen if there were no carnivores? How will the herbivores and plants be affected?

Let's Learn

Make a food chain mobile consisting of four living things.

Life Skills

If you see a friend waste food, what will you do?

- ❖ Keep quiet; it is not your problem.
- ❖ Explain to your friend that it is wrong to waste food.
- ❖ Hit your friend.

Know Your Values

If you have a pet, help the adults at home to feed it and look after it.