**Web research activity**

At the website below is some excellent information about food chains and food webs. Read this information and use it to answer the questions below.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/high-school-biology/hs-ecology/trophic-levels/a/food-chains-and-food-webs-article>

* Put a heading FOOD CHAINS and FOOD WEBS in your notebook

**QUESTIONS** – these will form your notes underneath the heading.

1. What is a food chain? (get two answers, one from the introduction, and the 2nd from the key points at the top.
2. What is a food web? (need only one answer… as long as you understand it)
3. What is a producer? Give some examples. You can also include a reference to the word autotrophs as this is the more advanced technical description of producers.
4. Explain why producers/autotrophs are so important to ecosystems.
5. Why is sunlight a very important component of life on earth? Clue – how do producers/autotrophs get their food?
6. What is a consumer? Give five examples. You may also include a reference to heterotrophs.
7. In a food chain, organisms occur in a certain sequence, starting with a producer. List this sequence, using arrows to connect the organisms.
8. Copy the diagram from underneath the “food chains” heading (with a chinook salmon in it), but replace the organisms with something you are familiar with and which would occur in Australia.
9. What does the term trophic level mean?
10. What is a decomposer? Give two examples. Why are these so important to Ecosystems?
11. Why are food webs more useful to scientists than food chains? (read the “food webs” notes.
12. What is the 10% rule of energy trqansfer?
13. All food chains and food webs have a limited number of trophic levels (levels of producers and consumers), and many food chains and webs stop when you reach the tertiary consumer level. Why do food chains and food webs have only a limited length?
14. If an organism was both a primary and a secondary consumer (it ate plants and other plant eating animals)…is it possible to fit it in a food web? Explain as best you can (this idea is not covered in the notes)