

Pond Food chains and food webs

A food chain shows a simplified feeding relationship in a habitat. They are useful in show how plants and animals are connected. Food webs show the different relationships more fully as many food chains interconnected.

Green plants are termed **producers** as they convert energy from the sun into food for themselves by a process called **photosynthesis**.

Consumers

Consumers are animals that get their energy directly or indirectly from plants.

Primary consumers or **herbivores** eat plants as their source of energy.

Animals that eat other animals are called **carnivores**. In a food chain secondary consumers eat primary consumers to obtain their energy while a **Tertiary** consumer is one that eats a secondary consumer other animals.

Omnivores eat both plant and animals.

Detritivores eat dead organic matter (plants or animals) to survive.

Examples of animals for each group are given below and overleaf but this is a simplified version as many animals fall into more than one category.





Holland Park
Ecology Centre

Pond Food Chains

All animals and plants need food to grow and move.

Animals that eat plants are called herbivores.

Animals that eat other animals are called carnivores.

Animals that eat both plants and animals are called omnivores.

Animals that eat dead plants and animals are called detritivores.

This is a simplified feeding or trophic level chart of the animals found in our pond.

Invertebrate Name	Feeding or Trophic level
Pond snail	Herbivore/ Detritivore
Phantom midge larvae	Carnivore
Midge larva	Herbivore
Rat-tailed maggot	Detritivore
Leech	Carnivore
Flatworm	Carnivore
Mayfly nymph	Herbivore
Dragonfly nymph	Carnivore
Diving beetle	Carnivore
Water mite	Carnivore
Freshwater hoglouse	Detritivore
Freshwater shrimp	Detritivore
Water flea	Herbivore
Pea mussel	Herbivore
Greater water boatman	Carnivore
Lesser water boatman	Herbivore
Mosquito larva	Herbivore
Damselfly nymph	Carnivore
Water scorpion	Carnivore

Vertebrates

Frog	Carnivore
Newt	Carnivore
Tadpole	Herbivore