

# NATIONAL SCIENCE EDUCATION STANDARDS

## **A. Science as Inquiry**

Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry

## **C. Life Science**

### **K–4**

The characteristics of organisms

- o Organisms have basic needs. For example, animals need air, water, and food; plants require air, water, nutrients, and light.

Organisms and environments

- o All animals depend on plants. Some animals eat plants for food. Other animals eat animals that eat plants.

## **F. Science in Personal and Social Perspectives**

### **K–4**

Personal health

- o Nutrition is essential to health. Students should understand how the body uses food and how various foods contribute to health.

Types of resources

- o Resources are things that we get from the living and nonliving environments to meet the needs and wants of a population.
- o Some resources are basic materials, such as air, water, and soil; some are produced from basic resources, such as food.

Science and technology in local challenges

- o Science and technology have greatly improved food quality and quantity.

### **5–8**

Personal health

- o Food provides energy and nutrients for growth and development.

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Publishing services by South Pacific Press

Designed by ThinkSpace Design

Art Director: Moonhee Pak

Editorial Director: Stacey Faulkner

Published in the United States of America by

Creative Teaching Press Inc.

P.O. Box 2723

Huntington Beach, CA 92647-0723

[www.creativeteaching.com](http://www.creativeteaching.com)

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ISBN 978-1-59198-701-7

CTP 5730

Printed in the United States of America.



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A few plants don't use photosynthesis to make their own food. They live off other plants. **Carnivorous** plants get some of their food by using their **digestive** juices outside their bodies! They then soak up the nutrients they need through their cell walls.



This plant eats other plants.



This plant eats bugs.

Fungi feed a bit like carnivorous plants. Did you know that some of the largest **organisms** on the earth are fungi? Because these fungi mainly live underground, most people don't realize just how big they are. They can have miles and miles of underground parts—called mycelia—that stretch out like branches.

All you see on the surface  
are a few mushrooms!

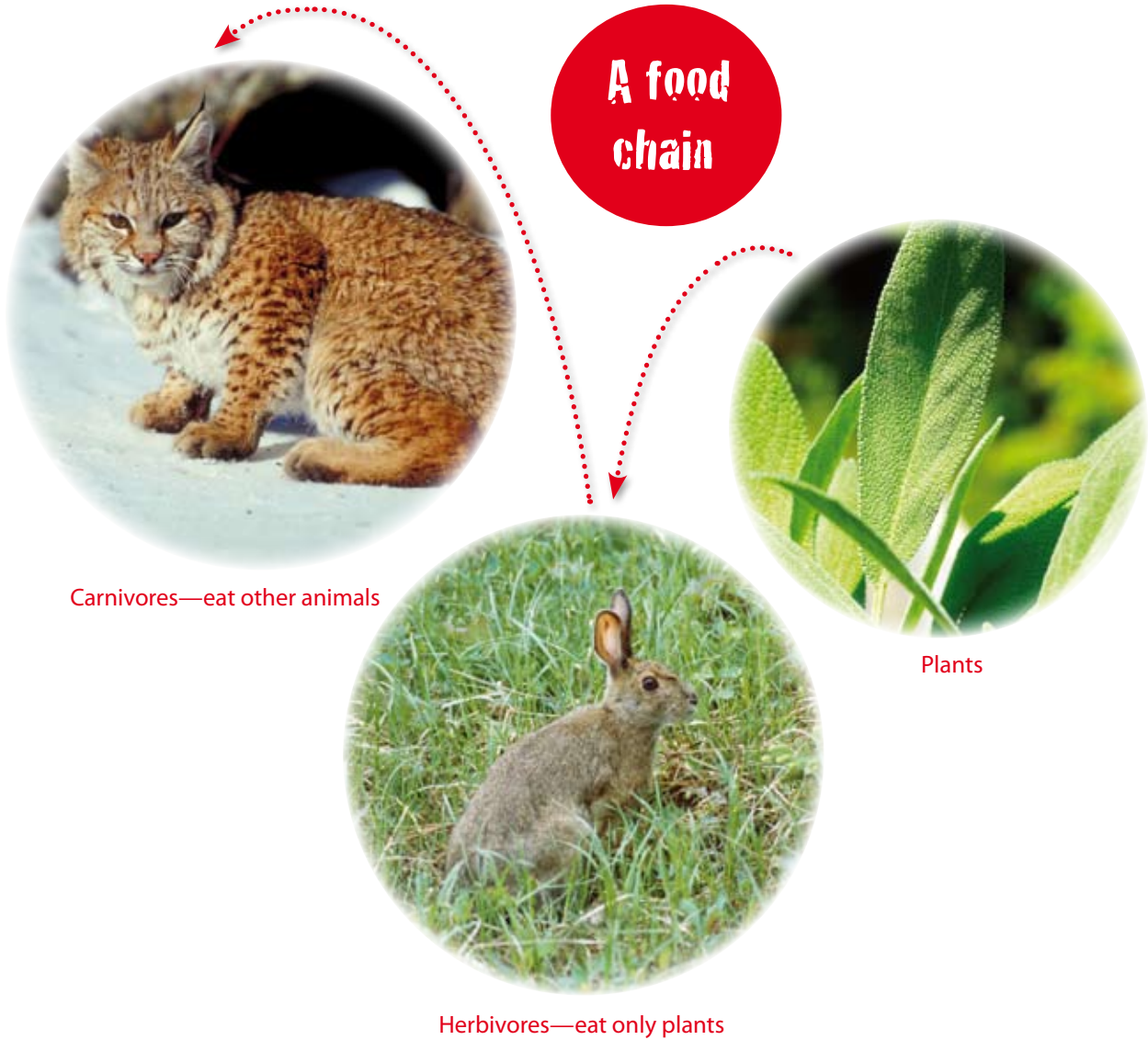
If you like to eat  
mushrooms,  
then you like to  
eat fungi.



Did you know  
that mushrooms  
are considered  
to be the "fruit"  
of fungi?

# MEAT EATERS

Some animals don't eat plants. They eat plant eaters instead!



Large numbers of herbivores support a smaller number of carnivores.

# STRANGE FACTS ABOUT FOOD

There are some strange things about food that many people don't know.

## Fruit or Vegetable?

Some of the foods we call vegetables are really fruits. A fruit is the part of a plant that protects its seeds. Did you know that pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini are all fruits? They all contain seeds. The word "vegetable" to describe these types of food isn't a scientific term, but a cooking one.



Did you know that some animals eat only fruit? They are called frugivorous animals. Flying foxes (which are not foxes at all but a kind of bat) are frugivorous animals. In places like Australia and Samoa, they fly into people's gardens at night to eat fruit.

