



LAURITZEN
GARDENS

*Discovery Tour
Student Packet*

6th Grade

Name: _____



Rock Cycle Word Search

Humans use **rocks** for many different things – in particular, roofing and building materials. Is it possible to run out of rocks? Although we should always use natural resources carefully, it's not likely that we'll run out of rocks anytime soon.

Rocks go through a continuous **cycle** of change. **Igneous** rocks are made when lava or magma hardens into rock. When the rock is exposed to air, **erosion** begins. Almost immediately, wind and rain weather the rocks and cause them to erode into sediment. The sediment becomes **sedimentary** rock. This rock is often buried beneath the Earth's surface, where it may become metamorphic rock. If the **metamorphic** rock is near **magma**, it may **melt** to become igneous rock. The entire process is known as the rock cycle.

D	O	G	L	I	M	E	T	A	M	O	R	P	H	I	C
E	C	A	R	E	G	V	O	R	O	U	S	R	U	O	M
I	V	R	L	J	U	N	G	L	E	S	K	I	M	O	A
A	I	T	O	S	C	A	E	R	O	S	I	O	N	S	G
E	L	C	Y	C	O	R	L	O	T	A	L	E	I	N	M
U	P	O	U	N	K	I	N	G	U	L	L	R	N	O	A
P	I	G	T	N	E	M	I	D	E	S	E	S	K	I	I
I	S	E	D	I	M	E	N	T	A	R	Y	F	A	L	T

Bonus Word Finds:

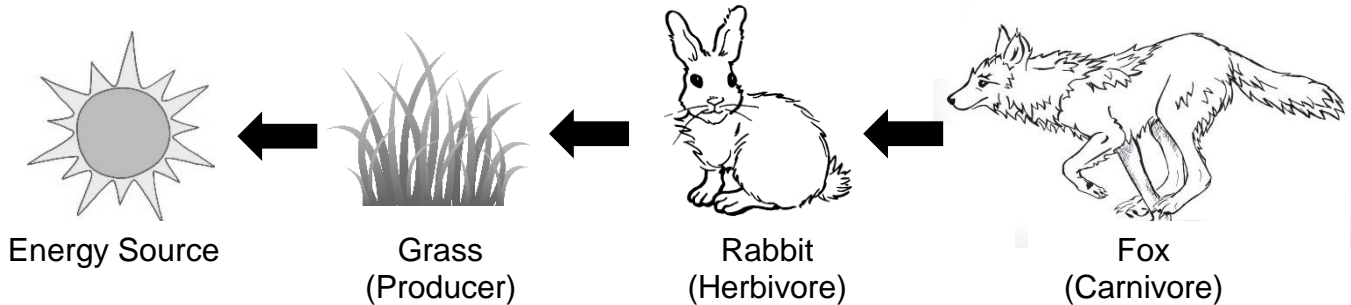
_____ is a liquid rock at or above the Earth's surface.

_____ are particles of eroded rock or plant and animal debris.

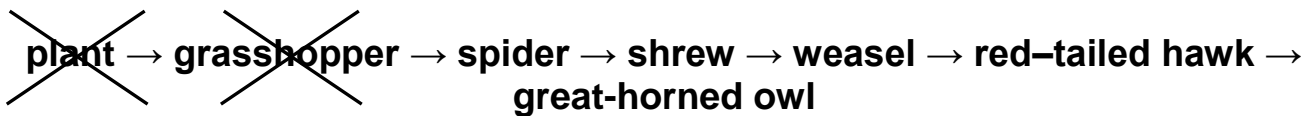


Food Chains and Webs

All living things need energy to survive. Plants get energy from photosynthesis. Humans and animals get energy from the things they eat (plants and animals). A simple food chain might look like this:



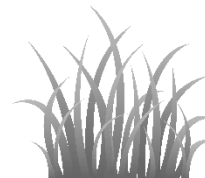
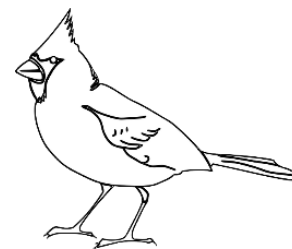
A food web is just another layer of the entire process. A food chain is a simplified version of what really happens in nature. Very few animals eat just one food. A food web is nature's way of making sure that there is food to go around. Let's use the simple food chain we used earlier. Imagine if a plant disease caused the one plant eaten by the grasshopper to die out. There would be no food for grasshoppers and they would eventually die.



The secondary consumers would have no food either. Spiders would die for lack of food, causing the shrews to also go hungry. You can imagine how that would affect the weasel, the red-tailed hawk and the great-horned owl. The scavengers and decomposers would be the only ones who would feast!!! But just for a short time – after that there might not be any animals left at all. A food web protects the balance of food and consumers by spreading the food sources and the eaters around.

On the next page draw lines connecting plants and animals in a possible food web that shows how plants and animals are connected in multiple ways to help them all survive even if one part is removed.

Food Chains and Webs





What is a Cloud?

Clouds are visible collections of water or ice that float in the air above the earth's surface. Clouds form when water that has evaporated from the earth's surface mixes with tiny dust particles in the atmosphere and condense together. This condensation occurs when warm and cold air meet in the atmosphere.

Clouds have different names depending on where they form in the atmosphere and their characteristics. For example, *nimbo*, which means 'rain', is a suffix added to cloud names that describe clouds that could produce rain or other precipitation (cumulonimbus, nimbostratus). *Cirro*, meaning 'curl', describes a high cloud that is usually made up of wispy ice crystals (cirrus, cirrostratus). These clouds are usually high up in the earth's atmosphere and appear thin, wispy and curly. Other name prefixes or suffixes include *alto* (high), *cumulo* (heap) and *strato* (layers).

Cloud Bank

Cirrus: Thin, wispy, curly shaped clouds high in the atmosphere

Cumulonimbus: Large, dense, towering clouds that produce rain, thunderstorms and/or hailstorms; may also be called a thundercloud

Cumulus: Puffy clouds that do not produce precipitation and often grow into cumulonimbus clouds

Stratus: Layered horizontal clouds with a flat base, often gray, found at lower elevations

Fog: Ground-hugging clouds

Can you label the clouds on the next page?



What is a Cloud? (continued)

