Year 5 Science: Food webs: who eats what in a New Zealand forest

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

Practice

1. In the food chain "grass → snail → song thrush", which organism is the producer?

2. A rat eats seeds and wētā. Is it a herbivore, a carnivore or an omnivore?

3. Which way does the arrow point between a wētā and the ruru that eats it?

4. Why is one food chain not enough to show the feeding links in a forest?

5. In Room 3's garden, spiders eat flies. Predict what would happen to the number of flies if the spiders disappeared.

Fix the mistake

6. Correct this statement: "In a food chain the arrow points to the thing that gets eaten: ruru → wētā."

7. Correct this statement: "Plants get their food from the soil."

8. Correct this statement: "One food chain shows everything that happens in a habitat."

9. Correct this statement: "Removing one animal from a food web only affects the animal that ate it."

Answer key (for parents and tutors)

1. In the food chain "grass → snail → song thrush", which organism is the producer?
   The grass, because it makes its own food.
2. A rat eats seeds and wētā. Is it a herbivore, a carnivore or an omnivore?
   An omnivore, because it eats both plants and animals.
3. Which way does the arrow point between a wētā and the ruru that eats it?
   From the wētā to the ruru (wētā → ruru), the way the food moves.
4. Why is one food chain not enough to show the feeding links in a forest?
   Most animals eat more than one thing and are eaten by more than one thing, so the chains join into a web.
5. In Room 3's garden, spiders eat flies. Predict what would happen to the number of flies if the spiders disappeared.
   The number of flies would probably go up, because fewer flies would be eaten.
6. Correct this statement: "In a food chain the arrow points to the thing that gets eaten: ruru → wētā."
   The arrow points to the eater, the way the food moves: wētā → ruru.
7. Correct this statement: "Plants get their food from the soil."
   Plants make their own food using light; they only take water and minerals from the soil.
8. Correct this statement: "One food chain shows everything that happens in a habitat."
   Most animals eat several things and are eaten by several, so you need a food web to show all the links.
9. Correct this statement: "Removing one animal from a food web only affects the animal that ate it."
   The change spreads through the web: its food can increase and its predators may switch to other prey.