

## Curriculum Overview

- Explore the acronym MRS NERG for living things and how to distinguish living things from once living, or never living.
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, consumers and predators
- Recognise that environments can change and this can pose dangers to living things

## Key Vocabulary

**Food chain:** The food chain is a series of living things which are linked to each other because each thing feeds on the one next to it in the series.

**Food Web:** A food web is a combination of food chains that join to form a network

**Producer:** Producers are the lowest level of any food chain. They are autotrophs, which means they make their own food, such as plants or plankton.

**Consumer:** Consumers eat producers. There are Primary consumers, which are sometimes eaten by Secondary consumers.

**Predator:** Predators are at the top of a food chain. They eat consumers and are not eaten by other creatures.

**Ecosystem:** An ecosystem is all the plants and animals that live in a particular area together with the relationship between them and their environment.

## MRS NERG – Characteristics of Living Things

**M = movement** – can it change position or move about?

**R = reproduction** – can it create new versions of itself or pass on genetic information?

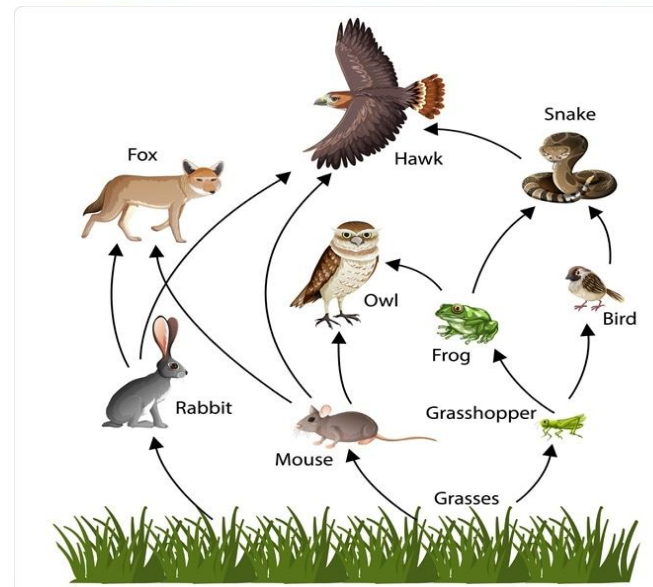
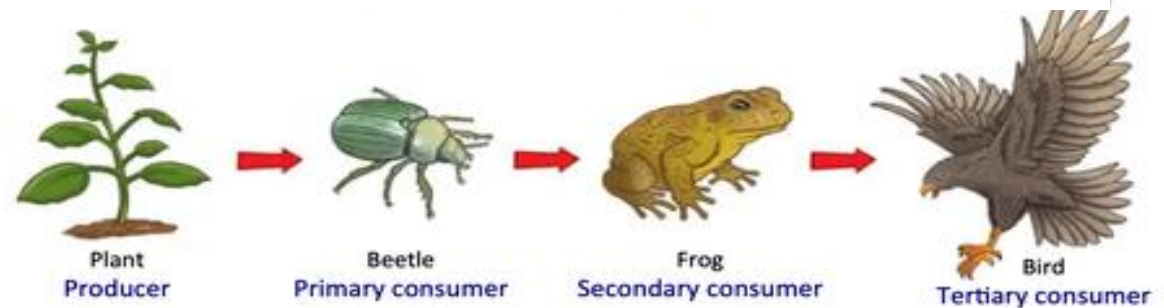
**S = sensitivity** – does it react to its environment – heat, light, sound, etc?

**N = nutrition** – does it consume energy?

**E = excretion** – does it get rid of waste?

**R = respiration** – does it breath, inhale or exhale air/gases?

**G = growth** – does it change size/shape as it matures?



## Suggested Activities

- Build a bug house at home
- Research the work of artist Ernst Haeckel and present your findings as a drawing, poster or short report
- Sketch an animal or plant you can see in your garden, at the park or at the beach
- Create a food chain for the plants and animals in your garden, at the park or at the beach