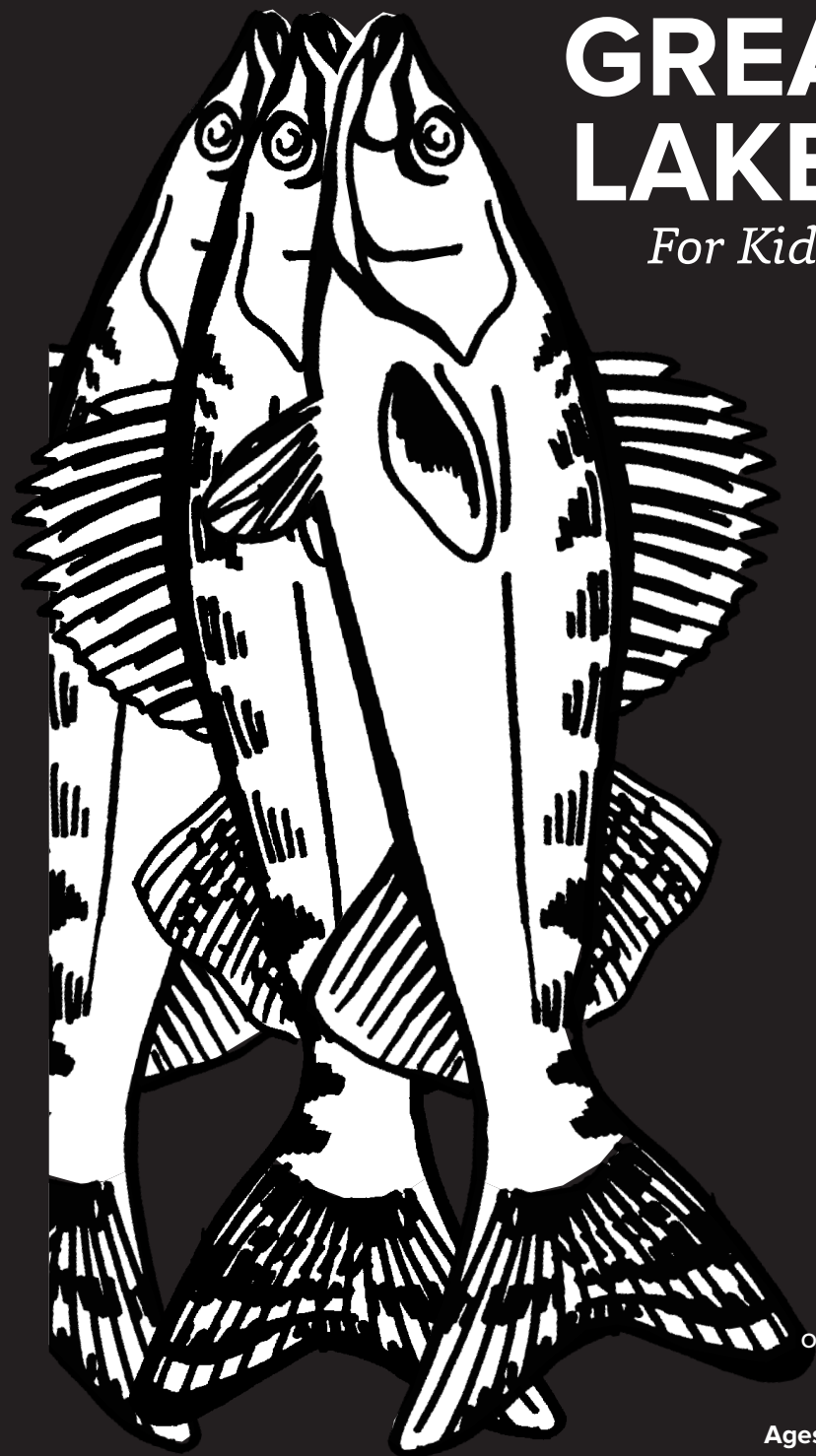
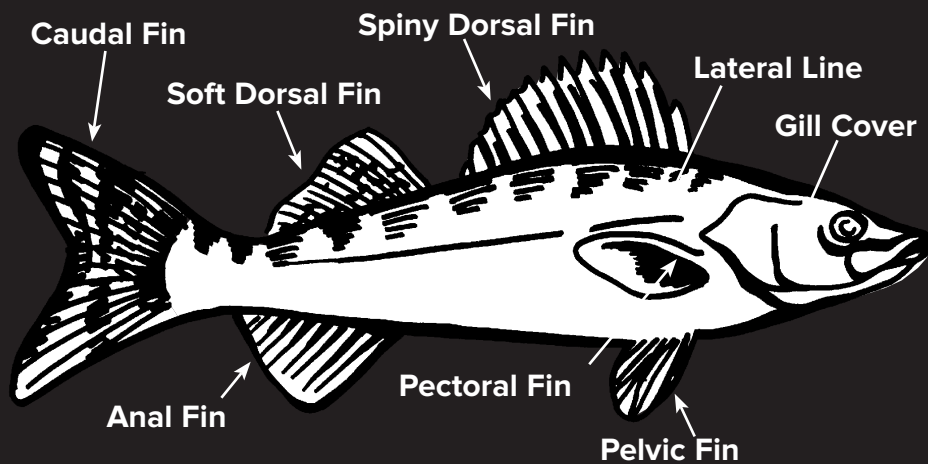


GREAT LAKES

For Kids

Anatomy of a Fish



Fun Facts

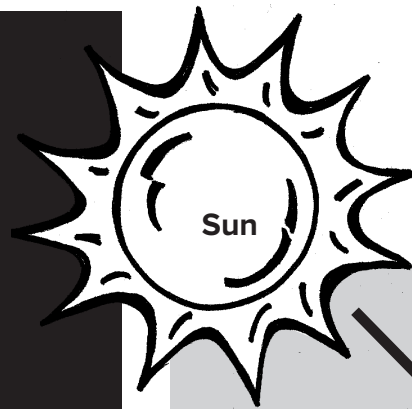
A chain is made of connected parts called links. The terms "food chain" and "food web" describe the paths of energy flow between plants and animals in a natural community.

A **food chain** is a simple diagram of who eats what. Each plant and animal stands for a link of energy in a food chain. Several food chains connected together make up a **food web**.

The sun is the first source of energy. Green plants use the sun's energy and nutrients in the soil to make their own food through a process called photosynthesis. Because green plants make their own food, they are called **producers**.

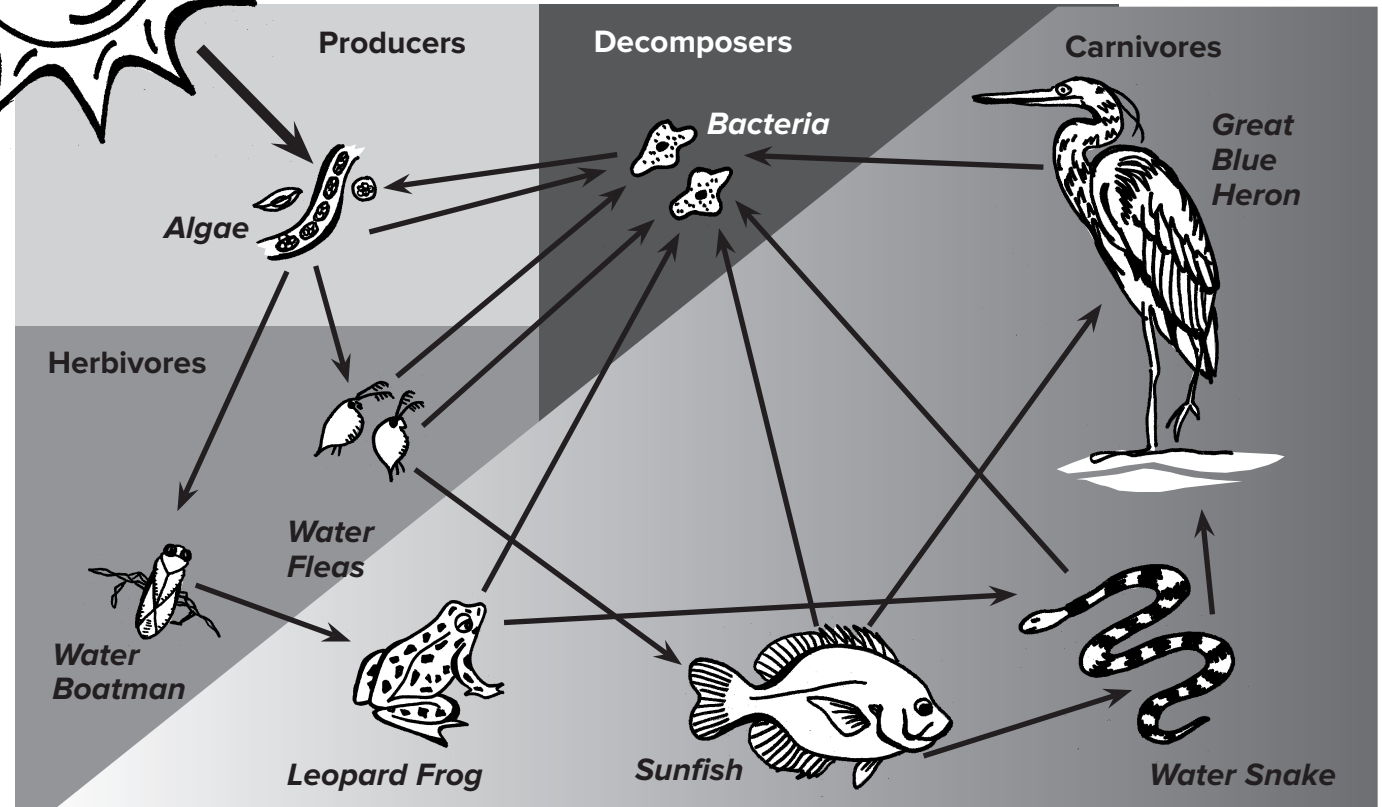
All other living things in a food chain are called **consumers** because they cannot make their own food. Consumers that eat plants to get their energy are called **herbivores**. Consumers that eat other consumers to get their energy are called **carnivores** (meat-eaters).

Decomposers, usually bacteria or fungi, are a special group of consumers. They break down dead plants and animals, returning nutrients to the soil, where they can be used by green plants.



The Circle of Lake Life

This diagram illustrates a basic food web in the Great Lakes. The arrows show the path of food (energy) through the web.



Follow the arrows in the web to complete the missing parts of the food chains below.

For example:

Sun	→	Algae	→	Water Boatman	→	Leopard Frog
Sun	→		→	Water Fleas	→	
	→	Water Snake	→	Great Blue Heron	→	
Sunfish	→		→		→	Algae
	→	Leopard Frog	→	Water Snake	→	