Food Chain Practice

Name:_____

Objective:
To review the concepts of food chains and the roles of organisms in a food chain through a simple card sorting activity. Cards representing different individuals in an ecosystem are first sorted by herbivore, carnivore, and omnivore, and then are reordered to create several food chains.

Vocabulary:

Food chain	Consumer	Herbivore	Carnivore
Producer	Decomposer	Omnivore	

Activity:

1. Pretend that you had the following meal at McDonalds last night.
   - Cheeseburger (with ketchup and pickles)
   - Chicken Nuggets
   - French fries
   - Milk

2. Now, break that down into individual ingredients (example: separate lasagna into pasta, beef, tomatoes, and cheese) and write them here. (on the long line)

Hamburger	C	_____	____
_____	____	_____	____
_____	____	_____	____
_____	____	_____	____

3. Label the foods that come from plants with a "P" for "Producer". (on the short line)
4. Label the foods that don't come from plants with a "C" for "Consumer". (on the short line)

5. Define Producer (these are your "P"'s from above).

6. Define Consumer (these are your "C"'s from above).

7. Name and define the three possible types of Consumers. (HINT: Use the vocabulary list above)
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8. What is a food chain? What are the pieces of a food chain?

9. Get a set of organism cards from the front counter. Color code the organisms on their cards by their role in the food chain.

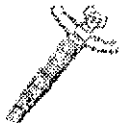
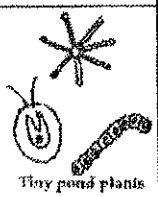
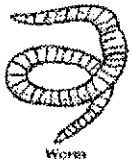
Green = Producers	Yellow = Herbivores	Orange = Omnivores
Red = Carnivores	Blue = Decomposers	

10. Cut out the cards and begin to organize them into food chains. There are multiple food chains.

11. When you have identified a complete chain, glue it down below. Continue to glue all chains.

12. Label the primary, secondary, and tertiary (third level) consumers in each chain

Food Chain cards

This is a brush rabbit. It eats plants like bunch grasses 	This is a stink beetle. It eats plants like the California buckwheat.  Stink Beetle	This is a copepod. It eats tiny sea plants such as diatoms. 	This is the sun. 
This is a cadis fly larvae. It eats tiny pond plants  Caddis fly larva	This is a red tailed hawk. It eats rodents, small mammals, bird and reptiles including the fence lizard.  Red-tailed Hawk	 This is a bunch grass. It makes its own food through photosynthesis.	This is California buckwheat It makes its own food through photosynthesis. 
This is the sun. 	This is a coyote. It is a scavenger who will eat almost any dead land animal or bird. 	This is a tadpole. It eats small insects and larvae like the cadis fly larvae.  Tadpole	This is a heron. It eats fish, frogs, and other fresh water animals.  Heron
This is a salmon. It eats plankton like copepods.  Fish	These are tiny pond plants. They make their own food through photosynthesis.  Tiny pond plants	These are diatoms. They make their own food by photosynthesis.  Tiny sea plants	This is the sun. 
This is a worm. It eats dead plants and animals.  Worm	This is the sun. 	This is a bobcat. It eats birds and small mammals like the brush rabbit.  Bobcat	This is a mushroom. It gives off chemicals that digest dead plants and animal wastes. Then it soaks up the digested materials. 
This is a fish. It eats tadpoles. 	This is a fence lizard. It eats insects like the stink beetle.  Fence lizard	This is a harbor seal. It eats ocean fish such as salmon 	This is a crab. It eats dead things on the ocean floor.