

## Week 6<sup>th</sup> July – Science

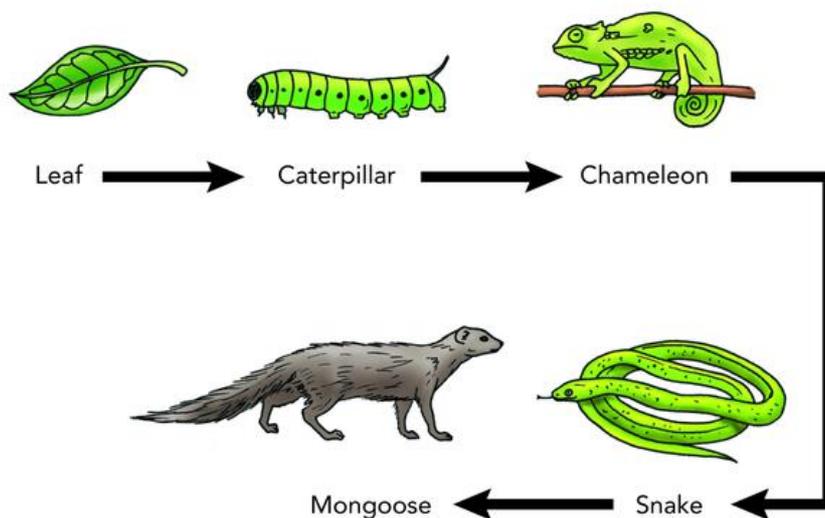
### Dangers to living things - Lesson 4

In the last few lessons, we have learnt a lot about food chains. Because all animals are in food chains, it means that all animals are linked together. Now, we are going to look at how changes to an animal can affect a whole food chain.

You can view a video to help your understanding of this lesson on the learning platform. It is in the year 3 and 4 area and is called Science – Food chains.

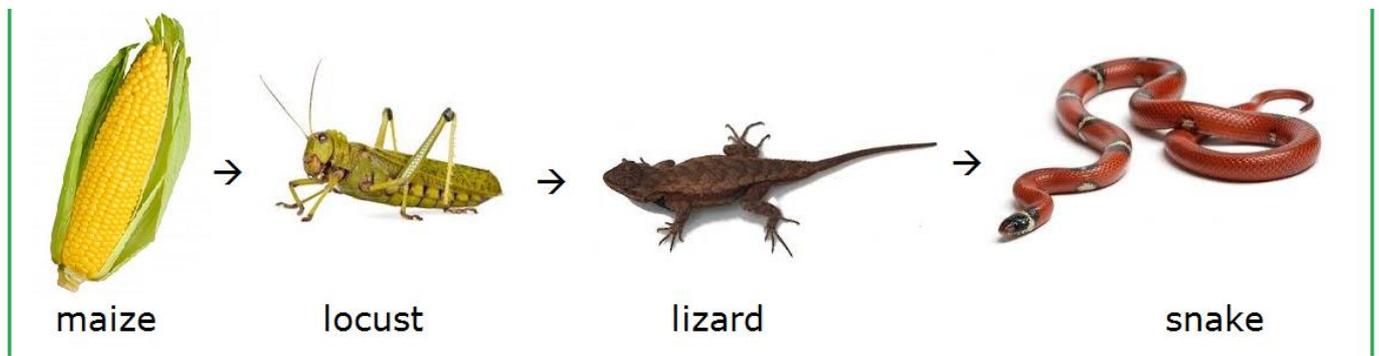
#### Task 1

Using this food chain from our last lesson, think about answers to following questions. You can write your ideas and answers into your yellow book. If you are working with someone else at home, discuss the answers to these questions with them.



1. If all the mongooses were caught by hunters, what would happen to the number of snakes?
2. If all the leaves got eaten by another animal, what would happen to the number of caterpillars?
3. If poachers came and took all the chameleons for exotic pets, what would happen to the number of snakes?
4. If lots of butterflies came to this area and laid double the number of eggs, producing double the number of caterpillars, what might happen to all the leaves?

By thinking about how all of these animals are connected, we can start to realise how fragile these food chains can be. Changing the number of one animal species can affect the numbers in different animal groups. The balance of the chain can be easily unsettled.



Now have a go at finishing these sentences, to explain how the animals are linked in this food chain. Remember that the effect on one animal may then affect another. Try to use comparative words like more, less, decrease, increase.

If there were more snakes in the food chain, .....

If there was more maize in this food chain, ...

An increase in the number of locusts would result in ...

The lizards eat the locusts. If the lizards ate more locusts, ...

### Task 3

Humans can alter food chains. Farming, building and even visiting areas can start to affect the number of animals at different parts of a food chain.

Can you think of how you could alter the environment in your garden or outside your house? Write a paragraph to explain how something you do in the garden can affect the animals that live there.

Use my example to help you with your ideas:

In my garden, we decided to start a vegetable patch. To do this we had to dig up a section of the grass. This caused the producer (grass) to be killed. This meant that animals that feed on grass would have had less to eat and may have had to go and find some other food.

We have now planted some vegetables and this has introduced some other producers into the food chain. The cabbage plants have definitely provided some food for something else. I think they have been eaten by some insects. If there are more insects in my garden, this might encourage more birds to come.