

Consumers & Feeding Roles

Grasshopper Glade with Chompling

Learning target

Classify consumers using diet evidence.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Herbivores; carnivores; omnivores; obtaining food

Open Grasshopper Glade - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Consumers & Feeding Roles - key ideas

1. The first clues

Consumers eat other organisms or their materials. Herbivores eat plants, carnivores eat animals, and omnivores eat both.

2. How the clues connect

Diet records provide evidence for a feeding role. An animal's size or friendly appearance does not reliably identify its diet.

3. Our evidence record

Our table shows Animal A eating seeds and insects, while Animal B eats only grasses in the supplied record. A is an omnivore in this model; B is a herbivore.

Keep the science accurate

Arrows show energy moving from food to eater. Energy flows while matter cycles. Include decomposers; avoid rigid one-food-per-animal rules.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/pe/5-Is2-1-ecosystems-interactions-energy-and-dynamics>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which animal is an omnivore in the table?

Expected answer: Animal A

Reasoning: Our table shows Animal A eating seeds and insects, while Animal B eats only grasses in the supplied record. A is an omnivore in this model; B is a herbivore.

2. Which diet matches a herbivore?

Expected answer: Plants

Reasoning: Consumers eat other organisms or their materials. Herbivores eat plants, carnivores eat animals, and omnivores eat both.

3. What should guide our classification?

Expected answer: Recorded diet

Reasoning: Diet records provide evidence for a feeding role. An animal's size or friendly appearance does not reliably identify its diet.

4. Can an omnivore eat both plants and animals?

Expected answer: Yes

Reasoning: Consumers eat other organisms or their materials. Herbivores eat plants, carnivores eat animals, and omnivores eat both.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.