Name _____ Date _____

Food Chains: Where a Hawk's Energy Comes From

Directions: Read about the hawk in the field. Then answer each question.

A Hawk's Lunch

A red-tailed hawk circles above a grassy field. Suddenly it drops into the grass. A moment later, it flaps away with a mouse in its claws. Where does the hawk get the energy to fly?

Animals get energy from food. A hawk uses that energy to fly, to grow, and to keep its body warm. Plants are different. Green plants, like grass, are **producers**. They make their own food out of air and water, using energy from sunlight. Animals are **consumers**. They must eat other living things to get energy.

A **food chain** shows how energy passes from one living thing to the next. Here is one food chain from the field:
grass → grasshopper → mouse → hawk.

Each arrow points from the living thing that is eaten to the living thing that eats it.

1. According to the passage, how does the grass get its food?

A. Sunlight itself is its food, so it does not need to make any.
B. It makes its own food out of air and water, using energy from sunlight.
C. It takes in ready-made food from the soil through its roots.
D. It gets food from the grasshoppers that live on it.

2. In the food chain, an arrow points from the mouse to the hawk. What does that arrow show?

A. The hawk eats the mouse, so energy passes from the mouse to the hawk.
B. The mouse and the hawk eat the same food.
C. The mouse eats the hawk.
D. The hawk gives some of its energy to the mouse.

3. Use the word bank to finish the sentences about the field's food chain.

Word bank
producer • decomposer • consumer • predator

The grass is a _____, because it makes its own food. The grasshopper is a _____, because it eats the grass.

4. How many consumers are in the field's food chain?

A. Four: the grass, the grasshopper, the mouse, and the hawk

B. One: only the hawk

C. Two: the mouse and the hawk

D. Three: the grasshopper, the mouse, and the hawk

5. Where did the energy in the hawk's food first come from?

A. The soil

B. The Sun

C. The hawk's own body

D. The mouse

6. In a pond, tadpoles eat algae, and fish eat tadpoles. Algae make their own food using energy from sunlight. Which food chain matches these facts?

A. algae → tadpole → fish

B. tadpole → algae → fish

C. algae → fish → tadpole

D. fish → tadpole → algae

7. On a very cold day, a hawk needs more food energy than it does on a mild day. Why?

A. Cold weather makes the mice in the field disappear.

B. The hawk uses energy from its food to keep its body warm.

C. The hawk makes its own food from sunlight, and cold days have less sunlight.

D. The grass in the field makes extra energy for hawks in cold weather.

8. What would happen if a long dry spell killed most of the grass in the field, and the animals had nothing else to eat?

A. There would be less food energy for the grasshoppers, and then for the mice and the hawks.

B. The mice would start making their own food out of air and water.

C. Only the grasshoppers would be affected, because they are the only animals that eat grass.

D. The hawks would have more energy, because the grass would no longer use it.