Animals depend on plants and other animals in their ecosystem for food. All these organisms are linked to each other in food chains. If something happens to one part of a food chain, all the organisms up that chain are affected.

**THINK & PREDICT**

Cross out half (six meters) of the grass. Cross out all the grasshoppers that depend on that grass for food. How many grasshoppers did you cross out? 

Cross out all the grasshoppers that depend on the lost grasshoppers for food. How many grasshoppers did you cross out? 

Cross out the hawk if it depends on the lost grasshoppers for food. (Even if only one grasshopper is lost, a shrew won't have enough food to survive. Cross out that shrew as well.) How many shrews did you cross out? 

Cross out the hawk if it depends on the lost shrews for food. (Even if only one shrew is lost, a hawk won't have enough food to survive.) Did you cross out the hawk? 

Repeat steps 2 to 4. How many grasshoppers did you cross out? How many shrews did you cross out? Did you cross out the hawk? 

**WHAT HAPPENED?**

Read your predictions. Which were correct and which were not? 

According to this food-chain diagram, how much grass does a hawk need to survive? 

**THINK & WRITE**

Green plants are called producers because they make their own food. All animals are consumers because they rely on something else for food. Which of the consumers in the food chain are plant eaters and which are meat eaters? Based on this example, do you think most ecosystems have more producers or consumers? More plant eaters or meat eaters? Why?