

# Food web

## Preparation

Find a picture of a complex food web.

## Instructions

Put the food web up where everyone can see it. First check that the students know what the arrows mean. Give students a number of questions about the food web to discuss in their groups. Ensure some questions only require the interpretation of simple relationships but others require students to think about short term and long-term effects and also how two organisms that do not appear connected can affect each other. Ask the students to identify both good and bad effects from changing some element in the food web.

## Thinking behind the activity

This activity is designed to get students to think about all the interactions between elements of a complex system in a context that will be familiar to them (food webs). The purpose is to encourage students to discern the complexity of the system – not reduce it to linear feeding relationships.