



# AT THE RIVER... WHO EATS WHAT?



A **Food Chain** shows the relationship between different animals and plants and describes who eats what in the natural world. The food chain shows how plants and animals get their energy.

The children should cut out the pictures of the animals and plants, and work out who eats what, to make a river food chain.

A food chain always starts with a **Producer**. This is an organism that makes its own food.



Most food chains start with green plants which use the **energy** from the **sun** to make their food from water and carbon dioxide in a process called **photosynthesis**.



A living thing that eats other plants and animals is called a **consumer**.

**Primary consumers** are organisms that eat the producers. They are herbivores or vegetarians. Examples of primary consumers in a river are Water Voles, Cased Caddisfly larvae, and Mayfly nymphs.

**Detritivores** eat dead or decaying material, which can include dead bits of plants or animals. An example of a detritivore in a river is a Freshwater Shrimp.

**Secondary consumers** are animals which eat the primary consumers, but which are then eaten by animals further up the food chain. Examples of secondary consumers in a river are small fish like Minnows, White-clawed Crayfish and the Dipper.

**Tertiary Consumers** are animals which feed on primary and secondary consumers, but which in turn are prey to top predators. Examples of tertiary consumers are fish such as the Atlantic Salmon, and Kingfishers.

A **Predator** is an animal that eats other animals.

The animals that predators eat are called **prey**.

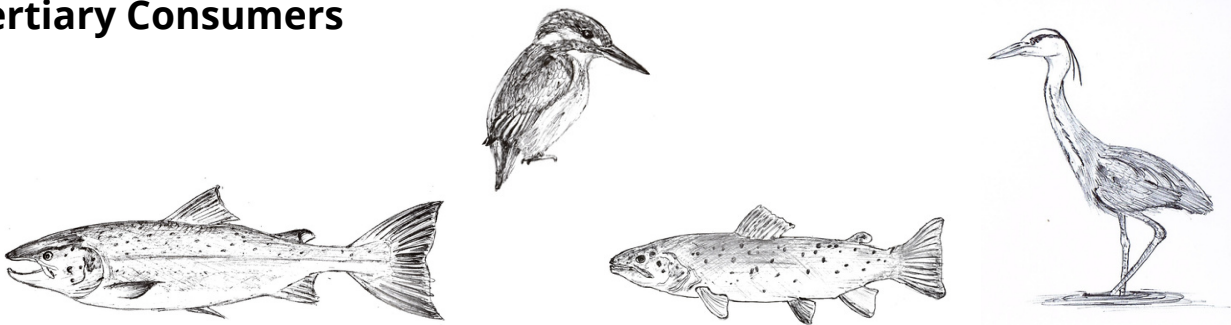
Predators are found at the top of a food chain. An example of a top predator in a river, is an Otter.

# River Food chain

**Top Predator**



**Tertiary Consumers**



**Secondary Consumers**



**Primary Consumers**



**Producers**

