Energy on the Move

Trace how food gives animals energy.

SC.4.L.17.2 "Explain that animals, including humans, cannot make their own food and that when animals eat plants or other animals, the energy stored in the food source is passed to them."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the three labeled Energy Paths, underline each word or phrase that follows the word *eats*, then circle the animal doing the eating. Your marks show the food source and the animal that receives stored energy.

Following Food Energy

1. Animals need energy to move, grow, repair their bodies, and stay warm. Unlike plants, animals, including humans, cannot make their own food. Plants capture energy from sunlight and store it in food they make. When an animal eats a plant or another animal, some stored energy passes into the eater. Scientists can trace this transfer by following a food path.

2. Energy Path 1 begins with clover. A rabbit eats the clover, so energy stored in the clover passes to the rabbit. Then a fox eats the rabbit, and energy passes to the fox. Energy Path 2 begins with pond algae. A tadpole eats the algae. Later, a heron eats the tadpole and receives energy from that food.

3. Energy Path 3 shows people as animals in a food path. A person eats beans from a bean plant. The beans contain energy stored by the plant, and that energy passes to the person. The person does not make food inside the body. In every path, energy moves from the food source to the animal that eats it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why must the rabbit eat clover to get energy?

2. Write Energy Path 1 in order, starting with the plant and ending with the last animal.

3. What food gives energy to the heron in Energy Path 2?

4. How does Energy Path 3 show that humans are animals?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create your own energy path with a plant, an animal that eats the plant, and an animal or human that eats the first animal. Write two sentences that explain how energy passes and why the animals must eat.

ANSWER KEY

Energy on the Move

GRADE 4 · SC.4.L.17.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the three labeled Energy Paths, underline each word or phrase that follows the word *eats*, then circle the animal doing the eating. Your marks show the food source and the animal that receives stored energy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why must the rabbit eat clover to get energy?	**The rabbit is an animal and cannot make its own food. Energy stored in the clover passes to the rabbit when it eats.**
2	Write Energy Path 1 in order, starting with the plant and ending with the last animal.	**clover, rabbit, fox**
3	What food gives energy to the heron in Energy Path 2?	**The tadpole gives energy to the heron.**
4	How does Energy Path 3 show that humans are animals?	**The person cannot make food inside the body and gets stored energy by eating beans from a plant.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A sunflower plant stores energy in its seeds. A mouse eats the seeds, then an owl eats the mouse, so both animals get energy because animals cannot make their own food.

Accept equivalent wording that explains animals cannot make their own food and receive stored energy by eating plants or other animals. For Your Turn, accept any accurate plant-to-animal-to-animal or plant-to-animal-to-human path with a clear explanation of energy transfer.