Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Link in the Food Chain

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Something green is the first link in the food chain of life.

Producers are the beginning of a food chain. Producers are plants and vegetation. Plants are at the beginning of every food chain that involves the sun. Photosynthesis allows producers to make food with sunlight energy. Plants are the producers of photosynthesis. Plants also make food for other organisms to eat.

Consumers are the next link in a food chain. There are three levels of consumers. The lowest level, with the organisms that eat plants, is herbivore consumers (herbivore organisms consume). They are also called herbivores. They are the plant eaters. Other plants or insects are examples of herbivore consumers. They are the plant eaters. Other plants or insects are examples of herbivore consumers.

Secondary consumers are the primary carnivores. A carnivore might be a lion or a cougar. Lions or cougars might be the secondary consumers and are called carnivores. Carnivores eat animals.

Tertiary consumers. There is a third level of consumer called the tertiary consumers (that means third level). There are consumers that eat the carnivores and primary consumers. A tertiary consumer could be a wolf that eat the cougar and the mouse.

There are also consumers called omnivores. Omnivores can eat either the secondary or tertiary consumers. Humans are omnivores and consumers of the food chain. We eat whole plants, we eat meat, we eat everything.

Why are there so many consumers? Consumers are the ones who eat the producers. If producers grow and there is food, there will be consumers who eat the producers. This also means that if a consumer is sick, there will be consumers who eat the sick one. This also means that if a consumer is healthy, it is healthy because it eats healthy food. Why consumers are important? Because they normally eat dangerous things that are not healthy. Why consumers are important? Because they normally eat dangerous things that are not healthy. Why consumers are important? Because they normally eat dangerous things that are not healthy.

Please DRAW the lines (a, or b, or c, or d.) of the best answer to each question below.
(4 questions – 1 point each)

1. What is the second link in the food chain?
   a. producers
   b. consumers
   c. carnivores
   d. decomposers