

RQ5-6 ~ Why are Food Chains and Food Webs are important?

TOPIC SENTENCE

What are abiotic and biotic features?

Transition

EVIDENCE

What is one characteristic of an ecosystem *from your text*?

SUPPORT

Give an example of this characteristic.

Why is this characteristic important?

TOPIC AGAIN

If an ecosystem has these characteristics, what impact can the characteristics make on other the ecosystem?

Food chains and webs in the grassland ecosystem are important because they show how energy is transferred from one living thing to another, and how they all depend on each other for survival. All food chains start with a producer. An example of a producer in a grassland ecosystem is grasses. Grasses are a producer because they get energy through photosynthesis (more information). Producers, like grasses, are important in the grasslands because they are a food and energy source for many animals (importance). Herbivores and omnivores in the grassland, depend on the grasses for food. An example of an animal that eats grasses is the prairie dog. The prairie dog is also a food source for many predators (more information). The prairie dog is important to the grassland food web because they keep the grasses from overgrowing, and help other consumers stay alive by being eaten (importance). Carnivores in the grassland depend on animals such as prairie dogs for food. An example of a carnivore that eats the prairie dog is the hawk. The hawk is a top predator and is not eaten by a lot of other animals (more information). The hawk is important to the grassland because it helps keep the prairie dog population down (importance). When plants and animals die in the grassland ecosystem, they are eaten by scavengers and decomposers. An example of a scavenger in the grassland ecosystem is the vulture. A vulture eats dead animals that are left over from predators such as lions (more information). Vultures are important because they clean up the dead and rotting animals and help the ecosystem healthy (importance). Food chains and webs in the grassland ecosystem show how all living things in the grassland depend on each other and without one thing, the whole system would fall apart.