

Feeding Habits of Animals



We Already Know

- ✎ Plants make their own food
- ✎ Animals eat plants or other animals as food
- ✎ Based on their food habits, animals can be plant eaters, flesh eaters, both plant and flesh eaters, insect eaters and grain eaters



We Will Learn About

- ✎ Food chain
- ✎ Classification of animals based on their eating habits – herbivores, carnivores, omnivores and scavengers
- ✎ Different ways in which animals eat their food - chewing the cud, gnawing food, tearing flesh, sucking food, swallowing food as whole, lapping up liquids.
- ✎ Eating habits of animals like elephant, frog, leech, etc.

ANIMALS AND THEIR FOOD

Food is the basic need of all living things because it helps them to:

- grow
- move and perform other activities
- remain healthy

If living things do not get proper food, they will not grow up. They will fall sick and may soon die.

We already know that plants make their own food. Animals cannot make their own food. They depend on plants or other plant-eating animals for their food.

FOOD THAT ANIMALS EAT



Think

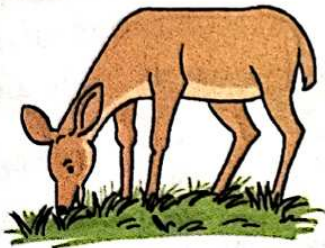
Have you ever seen a lion eating grass or a goat eating meat?

(Reflective Thinking)

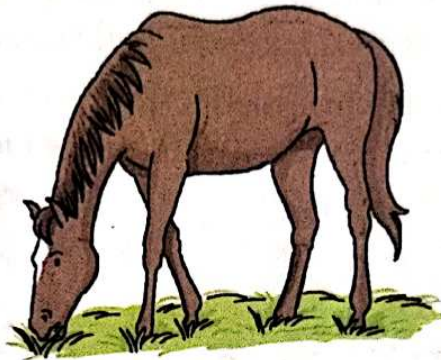
Different animals have different food habits. According to the food they eat, animals have different kinds of teeth and other body parts. Animals are grouped according to the food they eat.

Herbivores

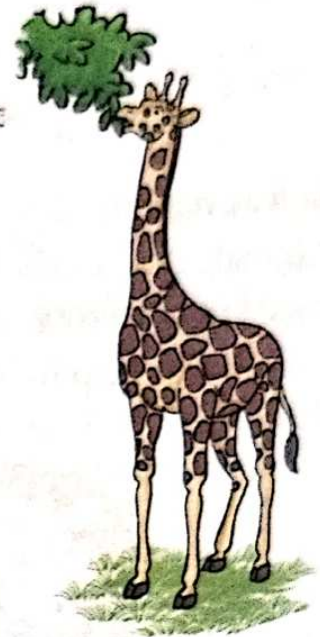
Animals that eat only plants are called **herbivores**. Examples are deer, cow, goat, sheep, giraffe, elephant and horse.



Deer



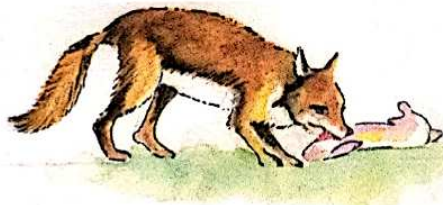
Horse



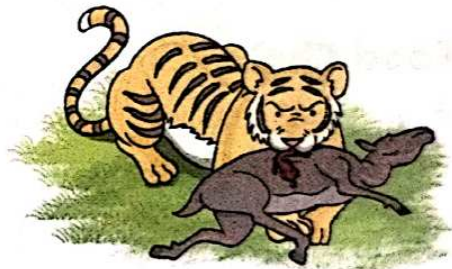
Giraffe

Carnivores

Animals that eat the flesh of other animals are called **carnivores**. Tigers, wolves, cats, snakes, lizards, crocodiles and sharks are carnivores.



Wolf



Tiger



Good to Know

- The polar bear is the largest carnivore living on land, whereas the pygmy shrew is the smallest.
- Animals that hunt other animals are called **predators** animals that are hunted are called **prey**.



Omnivores

Animals that eat both plants and the flesh of other animals are called **omnivores**. Humans, bears, foxes and crows are omnivores.





Bear eating fish



Bear eating plants

Scavengers

Animals that eat the left-over bodies of animals that other animals have killed are called **scavengers**. Hyenas, jackals, raccoons and vultures are examples.

Scavengers help to keep the **environment** clean by eating up the left-over bodies of dead animals. They are therefore known as **nature's cleaners**.



Raccoon



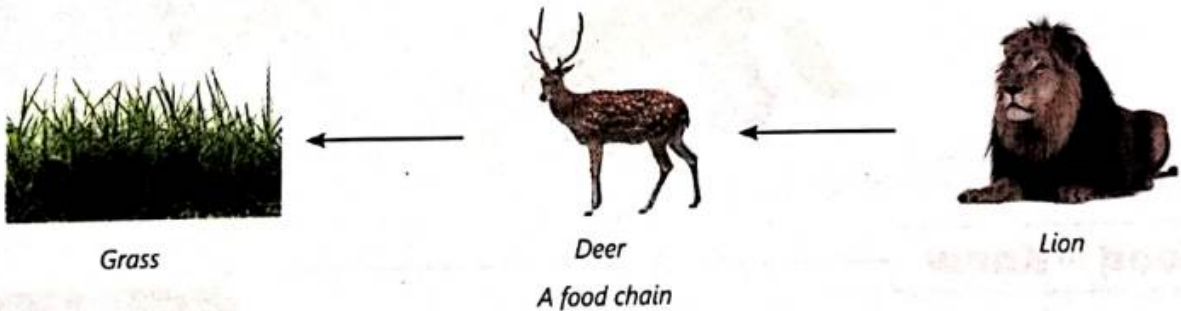
Vulture



Jackal

Food Chains

A deer eats grass. A lion eats deer. This makes a **food chain**. A food chain tells us who eats what in nature.



Here is another food chain. A mouse eats grain that comes from plants. An owl or eagle eats the mouse.



Wheat



Mouse



Owl



Do you think a lion would be able to survive if there were no plants? Why?

(Critical Thinking)

All food chains begin with plants. So, all animals depend on plants for food.

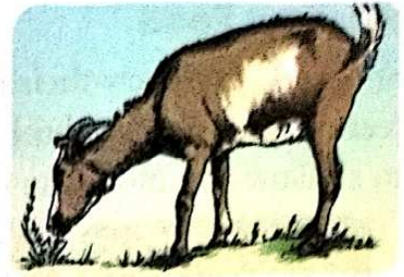
HOW DO ANIMALS EAT?

Different animals have different ways of eating food.

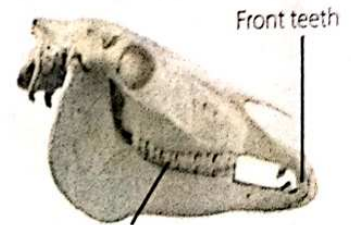
Cut and Chew Food

Herbivores such as cows, goats and camels have sharp cutting teeth in front to pluck and bite grass and leaves. They have strong, flat grinding teeth at the back to chew the grass and leaves.

Grass-eating animals like cow and goat do not chew their food immediately after biting it. They swallow it without chewing. After some time, they bring it back from the stomach to the mouth and chew it to a fine paste. This is called **chewing the cud**. Then they swallow the chewed food again.



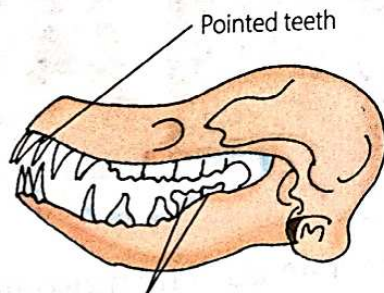
Goat eating grass



Teeth of horse

Tear and Grind Food

Carnivores such as tigers, wolves and lions have sharp, pointed front teeth. These teeth help them to tear the flesh. They also have strong, grinding teeth at the back to chew the flesh and bones.



Front and back teeth of a carnivore

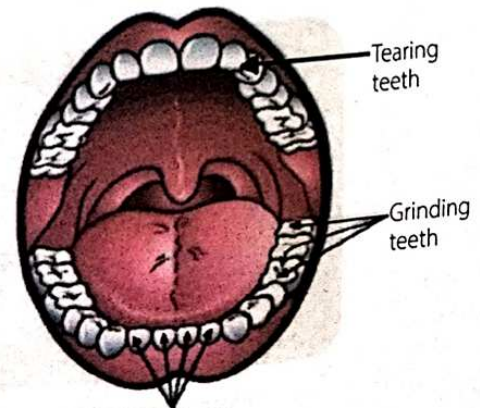


Front teeth of tiger

Birds like the owl and eagle are also carnivores. They have sharp and strong beaks and **claws** to catch and eat small animals like rats and moles.

Omnivores Have a Variety of Teeth

Omnivores such as humans and bears eat both plants and other animals. So, they usually have a combination of cutting, tearing and grinding teeth. Birds like sparrows, hens and peacocks are also omnivores. They have sharp and strong beaks.



Teeth of human

Swallow Food

Snakes do not chew their food at all! They swallow their food whole. They use their teeth to grab and hold their prey, not for chewing. They use their powerful muscles to swallow and move the food down their throat and into their stomach.



A snake swallowing an egg

Frogs and lizards do not have teeth. To catch an insect a frog throws its sticky tongue out of its mouth and wraps it around its prey. It then snaps back its tongue, pulling the insect into its mouth.



Frog's sticky tongue

Gnaw Food

Rabbits, squirrels and rats have two pairs of very sharp, long front teeth. They use these teeth to **nibble** hard food like nuts and fruits. Repeated nibbling is known as **gnawing**.



Squirrel



Sharp front teeth of a rat

Sharp front teeth of a rat

Suck Food

Nibble: To take small bites of food

Mosquitoes and leeches suck the blood of other animals. The mosquito has a needle-like tongue to suck blood.

A butterfly uses its long tongue called **proboscis** to suck nectar from flowers. The proboscis is a long flexible tube. The butterfly inserts it into a flower and drinks nectar in the same way as you drink a liquid using a straw.



Mosquitoes suck blood



Butterfly sucks nectar

Eating Habits of Some Other Animals

- Dogs, cats and many other animals drink liquids with the help of their long tongue. To drink water or milk, they curl their tongue into the shape of a spoon and **lap up** the liquids.
- The elephant uses its **trunk** for picking up food and pushing it into its mouth. It also uses its tongue to suck water.



A cat laps up liquid with its tongue



An elephant uses its trunk to suck water

Trunk: It is the proboscis of the elephant.



IN BRIEF

1. Animals are grouped based on the food eaten by them.
2. Herbivores eat only plants. Carnivores eat only other animals. Omnivores eat both plants and other animals. A scavenger eats the left-over bodies of animals that other animals have killed.
3. A food chain tells us who eats what in nature.
4. All food chain begin with plants.
5. The teeth of animals are suited to the type of food eaten by them.
6. Herbivores have sharp cutting teeth in front and flat grinding teeth at the back.
7. Carnivores have sharp, pointed tearing front teeth and flat grinding back teeth.
8. Omnivores have a combination of cutting, tearing and grinding teeth.
9. Snakes and frogs swallow their food whole.
10. Rabbits, squirrels and rats gnaw at their food.
11. Butterflies suck nectar with their proboscis.
12. Leeches and mosquitoes suck the blood of other animals.





Exercises

Objective Type Questions

A. Complete the sentences.

1. I eat only flesh. I am a carnivore.
2. I have sharp cutting front teeth. I am a Herbivore.
3. I catch insects with the help of my sticky tongue. I am a frog.
4. I am a lion. I eat the flesh of other animals.
5. I chew the cud. I also give milk. I am a herbivore / cow.

B. Choose the correct option.

1. Animals that eat both plants and flesh are called
 - a. herbivores
 - ☒ b. omnivores
 - c. carnivores
 - d. scavengers
2. Animals that are hunted for food are called
 - a. scavengers
 - b. carnivores
 - ☒ c. prey
 - d. predators
3. An elephant is a
 - ☒ a. herbivore
 - b. carnivore
 - c. omnivore
 - d. scavenger
4. Which of the following is a scavenger?
 - a. Parrot
 - b. Leech
 - c. Mouse
 - ☒ d. Vulture
5. Which of these animals feed only on liquid food?
 - ☒ a. Butterfly
 - b. Snake
 - c. Chameleon
 - d. Mouse
6. Which animals are called the nature's cleaners?
 - a. Carnivores
 - ☒ b. Scavengers
 - c. Herbivores
 - d. Omnivores

C. Fill in the blanks.

1. Snakes use their teeth to grab and hold food, and not for chewing
2. Bears and crows are examples of omnivores
3. Rabbits use their sharp front (front/back) teeth to gnaw hard nuts.
4. The frog uses its sticky tongue to catch insects.
5. Hyenas and jackals are scavengers as they feed on left-over bodies of dead animals.
6. A proboscis is the long flexible tube in the mouth of a butterfly.

D. Write T for True statements or F for False statements.

1. The eagle is a carnivorous bird. T
2. Snakes swallow their food whole. T
3. Puppies drink milk by lapping it up with their tongue. T
4. Carnivores have sharp, flat front teeth. F
5. All food chains begin with plants. T
6. A butterfly gnaws its food with its proboscis. F

E. Match the following.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Feed on nectar | <u>b</u> | a. Humans |
| 2. Swallow food as whole | <u>e</u> | b. Butterfly |
| 3. Suck blood of other animals | <u>d</u> | c. Trunk |
| 4. Variety of teeth | <u>a</u> | d. Mosquito |
| 5. Elephant | <u>c</u> | e. Frog |

Theoretical Questions

A. Answer the following questions in brief.

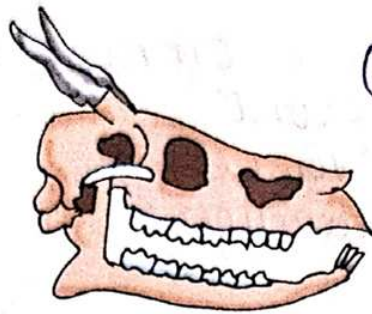
1. What are carnivores? Give two examples.
2. a) What is a food chain?
b) Why do all food chains begin with plants?
3. What do you understand by the term 'chewing the cud'?
4. How does a mosquito get its food?
5. a) What kind of front teeth does a rat have?
b) How does it use these teeth?
6. How are the eating habits of omnivores different from carnivores?



B. The diagram shows the teeth of an animal.

Describe the two types of teeth the animal has. What kind of food do you think the animal eats?

- ① sharp cutting front teeth
- ② strong grinding back teeth



- ③ The animal eats plants.



Thinking Skills

21st CS

1. Herbivores eat plants and carnivores eat herbivores. Suppose there were no carnivores.
 - a) Would the number of herbivores increase or decrease? *Increase*
 - b) Would the number of plants increase or decrease? *decrease*
2. The skeleton of an animal was found in a forest. The animal had cutting teeth, tearing teeth and also grinding teeth. What kind of food did the animal eat? *flesh*
3. Which of these is the correct food chain?

Carrot → Tiger → Rabbit

Carrot → Rabbit → Tiger

Rabbit → Tiger → Carrot

Tiger → Rabbit → Carrot

LEARNING BEYOND CLASSROOM



1. Look at your teeth in the mirror. How many different shapes of teeth can you see? Eat a small carrot in front of the mirror. See which teeth you use to bite and which ones to chew.
2. Find out the eating habits of pet animals.

Objective: Observing the eating habits of domestic animals.

Steps:

1. Talk to three people with different pets (include yourself if you have a pet). Get information about the feeding habits of each pet.
2. Identify the group each animal belongs to.

Fill in the table.

Animal	Food it eats	How it eats	Animal group