

Examples of food chains

Below are some examples of food chains in woodland, saltmarsh and freshwater habitats.

Woodland



hazel tree and nuts $\xrightarrow{\text{food for}}$ **wood mouse** $\xrightarrow{\text{food for}}$ **tawny owl**

Hazel trees grow well in open woodland and produce nuts.

Wood mice live on the woodland floor where they can find nuts that have fallen off the trees and where they can hide in the undergrowth from owls.

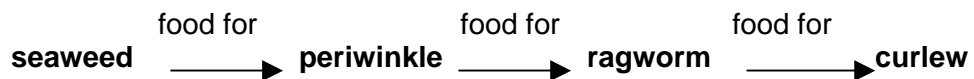
Tawny owls have exceptionally good hearing that helps them to hear mice rustling in the undergrowth.

Here are examples of other food chains:

Dead plants \longrightarrow **centipede** \longrightarrow **robin**

Oak leaf \longrightarrow **caterpillar** \longrightarrow **blue tit**

Mudflats



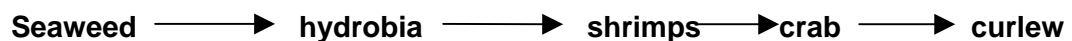
Seaweed is able to grow in salt water that would kill most other plants.

Periwinkles are sea snails that feed on seaweed.

Ragworms have lots of legs that enable them to swim through the mud and sharp jaws that they are able to shoot out to catch prey.

Curlews are birds with long curved beaks that are able to reach deep into the mud to find ragworms.

Here are examples of other food chains:



Freshwater stream



water cress → food for → **mayfly larva** → food for → **stickleback**

Water cress likes to grow in clean running water.

Mayfly larvae eat the plants in the stream. They have feathery gills on the side of their bodies to take oxygen from the water.

Sticklebacks are small fish that eat other water animals that are smaller than them.

Here are examples of other food chains:

Dead plants → **water louse** → **dragonfly larva**

Plants → **water vole** → **heron**