

Ideas for teachers

Below are some ideas for simple river food chains:

Algae → Mayfly nymph → Trout

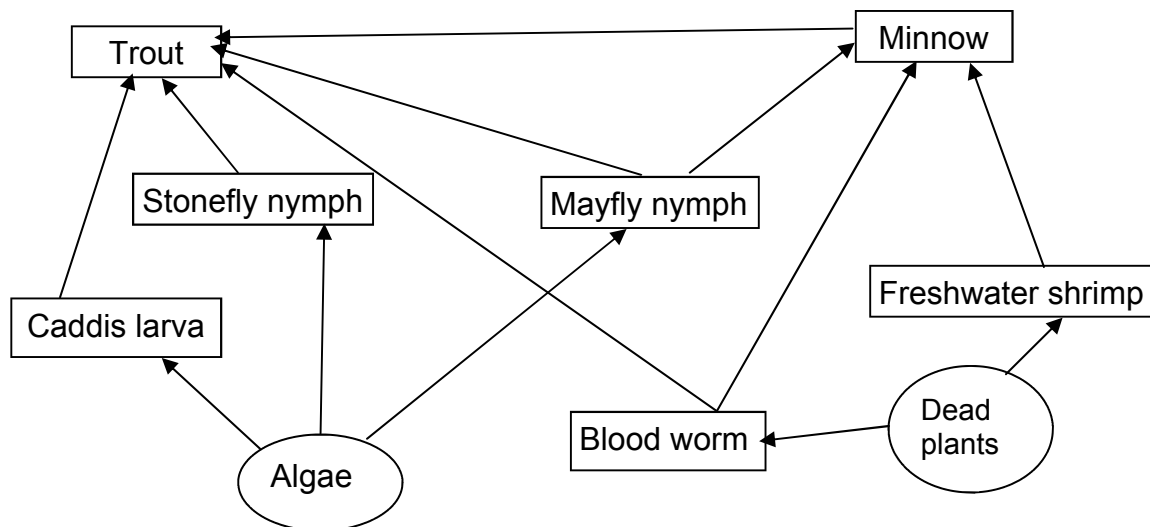
Dead plants → Freshwater shrimps → Minnows

Algae → Stonefly nymph → Trout → Otter

The chains always start with plants in one form or another. However we could start with the sun which is where plants get their energy from through photosynthesis to make food.

The arrows must always point to the animal which is doing the eating. They show the flow of energy through the chain.

Of course in a river the picture is much more complicated. Below is an example of a simple river food web:



Other animals that could be added include heron, kingfisher and otter, which all eat fish. We could also add Humans as we also eat fish. Birds, such as the dipper and grey wagtail eat freshwater invertebrates.