

Name \_\_\_\_\_

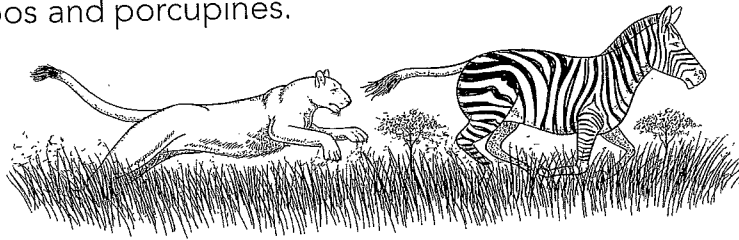
**Day  
1**

### Weekly Question

## Is the lion really the king of the jungle?

In literature, art, and folklore, lions have long been the symbol of kings and royalty. Their very appearance suggests strength and power. They are the second largest of all felines and are one of the top **predators** in their ecosystem. Adult lions generally weigh 300 to 400 pounds and stand about 3½ feet tall from their shoulders to the ground. With powerful legs, a strong jaw, and sharp teeth and claws, lions can kill **prey** even bigger than themselves.

In fact, lions can hunt and kill nearly any species they encounter. But they prefer to eat hoofed animals, such as zebras, impalas, wildebeests, and water buffalos. They have also been known to feast on smaller mammals, such as wart hogs and hares. However, lions will generally avoid animals that can fight back or injure them, such as hippos and porcupines.



A. Complete the analogy, using the vocabulary words.

Lion is to \_\_\_\_\_ as **zebra** is to \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Name four characteristics that make lions good predators.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Write *true* or *false*.

1. Lions are capable of killing every species they encounter.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Lions are in the feline family.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Hippos and porcupines can injure lions.

\_\_\_\_\_

Daily Science

**Big  
Idea 2**



**WEEK 3**

### Vocabulary

#### **predator**

PRED-ih-ter

*an animal that kills and eats other animals*

#### **prey**

pray

*an animal hunted or caught for food by another animal*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Daily Science

**Big  
Idea 2**

**WEEK 3**

**Day  
2**

### Weekly Question

## Is the lion really the king of the jungle?

Despite being known as the “king of the jungle,” lions do not actually live in a jungle. They are found mostly in the **savannas** of East Africa. The savannas are wide grasslands dotted with scattered shrubs and trees. This habitat is very warm and usually dry, except for a short rainy season.

In the savanna ecosystem, lions are at the top of the **food chain**. They eat the zebras, wildebeests, impalas, and other animals that in turn eat the grasses and shrubs. Although the idea of a food chain may seem simple enough, the relationship between predators and prey in an ecosystem can be complex. For example, lions can kill and eat crocodiles, but crocodiles have been known to eat lions, too.

### Vocabulary

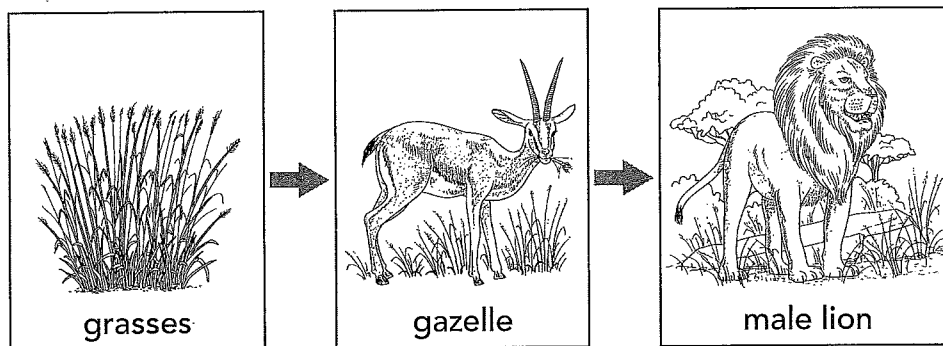
#### food chain

FOOD chayn  
a sequence of organisms in a community in which each member feeds on the one below it

#### savanna

suh-VAN-uh  
hot, often dry  
grassland with scattered trees

- A. Write a caption explaining the diagram below. Use the terms **food chain** and **savanna** in your caption.



- B. List three characteristics of a lion's habitat.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

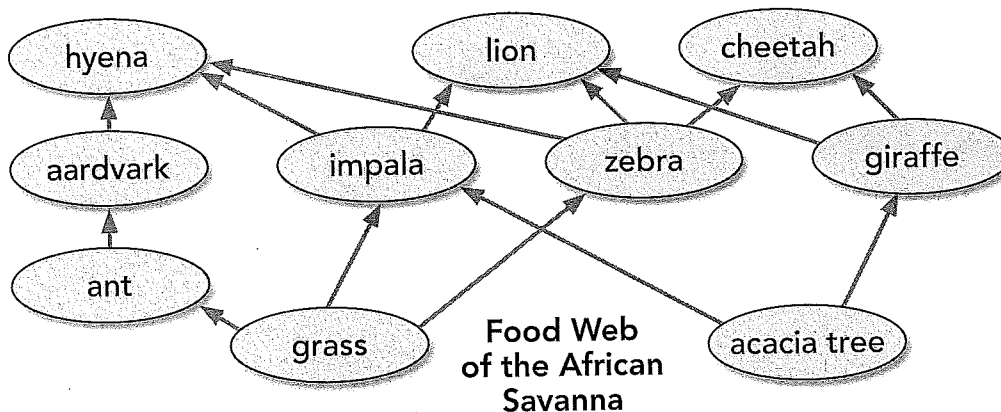
**Day  
3**

### Weekly Question

## Is the lion really the king of the jungle?

Lions are at the top of more than one food chain. They eat not just the hoofed animals that eat the grass, but they may also eat small mammals that in turn feed on trees, seeds, or insects. In addition, lions are in **competition** with other predators, such as hyenas and cheetahs, who are at the top of their own food chains. These overlapping and interconnected food chains all make up a giant **food web**.

Although the lions compete with other top predators, they have advantages. One advantage is their size. Often, it is the largest carnivore that wins a battle over food. Also, lions hunt their prey in groups called *prides*. Teamwork helps the lions defend their kill from other carnivores.



- A.** What are three food chains you see in the food web above? Fill in the blanks below to show three different chains. (There may be more than one way to complete each chain.)

1. acacia tree → \_\_\_\_\_ → lion
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → cheetah
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → ant → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

- B.** Cheetahs might be smaller than lions, but they have another competitive advantage. What do you think it is? How does it help them?
- \_\_\_\_\_

Daily Science

**Big  
Idea 2**

**WEEK 3**

### Vocabulary

#### **competition**

KOM-peh-TISH-un  
a struggle between two or more organisms for a limited resource

#### **food web**

FOOD web  
a network of interconnected food chains

Name \_\_\_\_\_

daily Science

**Big  
Idea 2**

**WEEK 3**

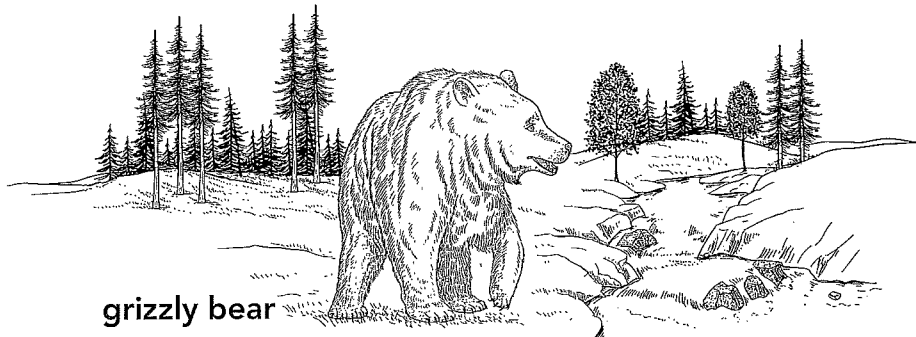
**Day  
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**Weekly Question**

## Is the lion really the king of the jungle?

Every ecosystem has its own particular food web. In Alaska, the grizzly bear and the wolf are top predators that compete for salmon, elk, rabbits, and other prey. The rabbits and elk eat plants found on land, while the salmon feed on plankton and small fish.

The grizzlies in Alaska, the lions in East Africa, and in fact, all the top predators in any ecosystem play the important role of controlling the number of animals below them in the food web. Without predators, other animal populations could greatly increase. And with so many populations competing for limited food and water, these animals could perish from starvation. So every organism, no matter where it is in the food web, helps every other one.



grizzly bear

- A.** Complete two Alaskan food chains, using information from the passage. Write the names of the organisms in the spaces provided.

1.  →  →

2.  →  →

- B.** Humans introduced rabbits to Australia in the 1700s. However, there are not many predators in the Australian food web. What do you think happened to the rabbits? What impact do you think this had on vegetation?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Day  
5**

**Weekly Question**

**Is the lion really the king  
of the jungle?**

A. Use the words in the box to complete the paragraph.

food chain    food web    prey  
competition    predators    savanna

Lions are part of the ecosystem of the African \_\_\_\_\_,  
where they act as top \_\_\_\_\_. They hunt \_\_\_\_\_  
such as zebras and antelope. Lions are in \_\_\_\_\_ with other  
carnivores, but they still sit at the top of their own \_\_\_\_\_.  
Lions belong to more than one food chain, so they are part of a  
\_\_\_\_\_.

B. Explain the difference between a food chain and a food web.

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C. Check the box next to the phrase that completes each analogy.

1. Lion is to zebra as \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ cheetah is to savanna  
☐ mouse is to lizard

- ☐ hyena is to gazelle  
☐ grass is to seeds

2. East Africa is to lion as \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ grizzly bear is to salmon  
☐ Alaska is to grizzly bear

- ☐ gazelle is to East Africa  
☐ Alaska is to hyena

