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# A Food Chain from Sea to Land

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The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) has reported that house mice are feeding on live seabird chicks on Gough Island in the Atlantic Ocean. The Albatross is one of the seabirds whose chicks are being eaten. Albatross chicks are fed by their parents on food that includes squid (similar to a small octopus). Squid feed on krill, tiny shrimp-like animals. Krill eat phytoplankton, microscopic ocean plants.

**1** In the space below, draw a food chain using this information.

**2** Where does the energy come from for this food chain? .....

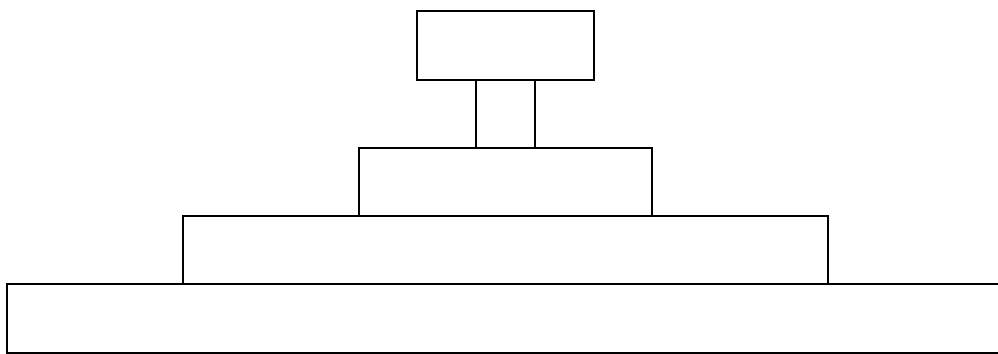
**3** What do the arrows in your food chain represent? .....

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**4** How many organisms in the food chain are consumers? .....

**5** Even though the mice are larger than British house mice, they are still much smaller than the chicks. Several mice will feed on one chick.

Here is a pyramid of numbers for the food chain. Label each step with the organism you think it represents.



**6** Put **h** in any step in the pyramid where there is a herbivore, **p** where there is a producer and **c** where there is a carnivore.

**7** The RSPB has estimated that about one million chicks a year have been eaten by the mice. What effect might this have on the surrounding sea life?

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# A Food Chain from Sea to Land **answers**

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The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) has reported that house mice are feeding on live seabird chicks on Gough Island in the Atlantic Ocean. The Albatross is one of the seabirds whose chicks are being eaten. Albatross chicks are fed by their parents on food that includes squid (similar to a small octopus). Squid feed on krill, tiny shrimp-like animals. Krill eat phytoplankton, microscopic ocean plants.

1 In the space below, draw a food chain using this information.

phytoplankton → krill → squid → albatross chicks → mice

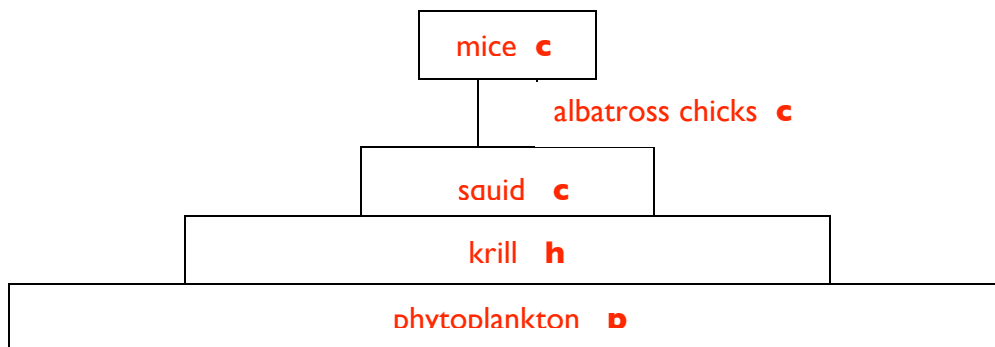
2 Where does the energy come from for this food chain? **The Sun.**

3 What do the arrows in your food chain represent? **The transfer of energy.**

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4 How many organisms in the food chain are consumers? **Four organisms are consumers.**

5 Even though the mice are larger than British house mice, they are still much smaller than the chicks. Several mice will feed on one chick.

Here is a pyramid of numbers for the food chain. Label each step with the organism you think it represents.



6 Put **h** in any step in the pyramid where there is a herbivore, **p** where there is a producer and **c** where there is a carnivore.

7 The RSPB has estimated that about one million chicks a year have been eaten by the mice. What effect might this have on the surrounding sea life?

As there will be fewer seabirds, fewer animals from the sea will be caught by birds for food. Therefore there may be greater numbers of animals such as squid. They may eat more krill so the numbers of krill may fall. Then the numbers of phytoplankton may rise.