



# Life As A Chipmunk

Life as a chipmunk isn't always easy! Can you survive?

Here's an example of a **food chain**. A **food web** or **food chain** describes who eats what in a community.



<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/games/foodchaingame.htm>

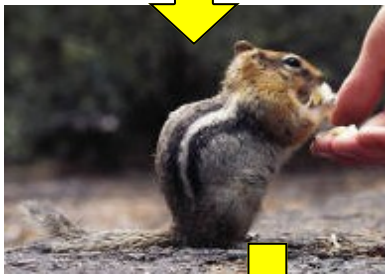
## Words to Explore

- Food chain
- Primary Producer
- Consumer

All energy comes from the sun.



Acorns grow on oak trees, which use the sun's energy to grow. This is called **photosynthesis**. The oak tree is a **primary producer**.



Chipmunks eat the acorns. This makes the chipmunk a **primary consumer**. It is consuming (or eating) the acorns.



The hawk feeds on the chipmunk and is a **secondary consumer**. It is also known as the top of the food chain because nothing will eat the hawk.

## Solve this!

A chipmunk needs 25 acorns to survive and 50 to reproduce, and a hawk needs 5 chipmunks to survive and 10 chipmunks to reproduce.

In a year with average rainfall, 1000 acorns are produced. What is the average population size of chipmunks during an average rainfall year?

---

One year, only 500 acorns are produced. What will be the size of the chipmunk population at the end of the year?

---

There are two hawks in the area. In order for them to survive and reproduce, how many chipmunks will they need to eat? \_\_\_\_\_

How many acorns are required for this food chain? \_\_\_\_\_